

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 11th October, 2012, starting at 6.30 pm

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

ACOMB WARD

Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Galvin

CLIFTON WARD

Douglas
King
Scott

DERWENT WARD

Brooks

DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD

Hodgson
Reid
Semlyen

FISHERGATE WARD

D'Agorne
Taylor

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker
Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Cuthbertson
Firth
Richardson

HESLINGTON WARD

Levene

HEWORTH WARD

Boyce
Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Crisp
Riches

HULL ROAD WARD

Barnes
Fitzpatrick

**HUNTINGTON & NEW
EARSWICK WARD**

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Warters

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Steward

**SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE &
CLIFTON WITHOUT WARD**

Cunningham-Cross
McIlveen
Watt

STRENSALL WARD

Doughty

WESTFIELD WARD

Burton
Williams

WHELDRAKE WARD

Barton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Horton, Funnell, Wiseman and Jeffries

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

The following **prejudicial** interest was declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Potter	28 (i). Council Minutes, 12 July 2012 - Notices of Motion (North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)	As an election candidate

Note: The above member left the room during the debate / vote on the relevant items and took no part in the decisions thereon.

The following **personal** interests were declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Crisp	13. (xxv). Questions to the Cabinet Leader	As her son works for Blackpool Council
Hodgson	6. Report of Cabinet Leader - Internationalisation	As a member of the York International Association and Unison

31. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Annexes 2, 3 and 4 to Agenda Item 7 relating to the Cabinet's recommendations on the Sale of the Hungate Site and Annex 2, also at Agenda Item 7 relating to the Cabinet's recommendations on the Admin Accommodation Portfolio on the grounds that they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons, which is classed as exempt under paragraph 3 and as Annex 4

contains information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings, which is classed as exempt under paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as revised by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

32. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

33. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor confirmed that, prior to the next Council meeting on 13 December, there would be a Special Meeting to confer ‘Freedom of Entry to the City’ to the 34 Field Hospital.

The Lord Mayor also proudly reported receipt of the framed certificate for this year’s Council’s Yorkshire in Bloom Gold Award in the City Category. He asked all Members to join him in formally congratulating everyone involved in the achievement and showing their appreciation for the hard work involved.

Members were also informed of three pictures all recently presented to the Lord Mayor, the first on behalf of HMS York following its decommissioning last month, the second from the Third Yorkshire Regiment presented following their parade in July and the third a York 800 watercolour picture containing gold and silver leaf painted by Ron Plumpton of Copmanthorpe.

Finally, on Members behalf he asked that best wishes be forwarded to Councillor Jeffries for a speed recovery following her recent illness.

34. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor announced that six members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

Wilson Clark spoke in support of the petition to be presented, later in the meeting, requesting speed restrictions on the A19 at Deighton. He referred to the alarming increase in traffic on the A19 generated by the

Designer Outlet and Park and Ride sites with more expected following proposed developments in Barby and the North Selby anaerobic digestion plant. Residents of the village were requesting a 40mph speed limit and safe access/egress to the A19 for pedestrians, bus users, motorists and cyclists.

Tony Bramley also spoke in support of the petition requesting speed restrictions on the A19 at Deighton. He referred to 80% resident support for a 40mph, rather than a 50mph speed limit through the village. The recent fatality on the A19 at Deighton, had involved his son's girlfriend. She had been trying to cross the road which had, at the time, been dark as the bus stop lighting had been out of action for a number of months. He requested member support for a lower speed restriction in the area, with improved lighting, to ensure residents were able to safely cross the road.

Richard Bridge spoke on the Council Tax Benefit reform, the forthcoming legislation which would target the poorest in society. He referred to the number of current tax benefit claims which also included a number of residents in work. Reference was made to other options available as those targeted had also received other cuts in income which would mean they had to make a choice between eating and heating. He therefore asked members to consult on alternative options when considering the localisation of Council Tax benefits.

Valerie Bedford spoke in support of the petition, to be presented later in the meeting by Councillor Cuthbertson, regarding traffic issues at Calf Close, Haxby. She pointed out that Calf Close had once been a peaceful road popular with young families and the elderly, close to a sports field. However in 2009 the road had become a short cut from Station Road to York Road with incidences of speeding vehicles and cars hitting kerbs and walls raising residents concerns over safety. Petitioners were requesting that Calf Close should either be made a 'no through road' or a 20mph zone.

Sarah Hodgson also spoke in support of the petition regarding traffic issues at Calf Close, Haxby. She confirmed that residents were requesting safety measures that would ensure children and vulnerable residents had safe access to the Ethel Ward Playing Fields. Reference was made to the regular need to contact Police and PCO's following the use of the road as a racing circuit. Residents were requesting action to prevent Calf Close being used as a short cut and to limit vehicles to safe speeds.

Jim Begley spoke in support of a petition to be presented by Councillor Scott, later in the meeting, regarding traffic issues on The Avenue/Westminster Road, Clifton. Mr Begley thanked members for agreeing to reinstate the left hand turn at the Water End junction however their roads were still being used as a rat run by vehicles trying to avoid the traffic lights and queues at the junction. Recent official counts had demonstrated that, on average, over 1500 vehicles created noise, vibration, dust and other pollution on residential roads on a daily basis. Residents were requesting point closure to improve safety for residents and improve their quality of life.

35. PETITIONS

Petitions Presented Under Standing Order 7

Under Standing Order 7, petitions were presented by:

- i) Cllr Barton on behalf of residents of The Ruddings, Wheldrake requesting resurfacing of their road.^{1.}
- ii) Cllr Barton on behalf of the A19/Deighton Speed Restriction Group requesting a 40mph speed limit through the village.^{2.}
- iii) Cllr Brooks on behalf of residents of Dunnington asking that litter bins removed in the summer be replaced.^{3.}
- iv) Cllr Cuthbertson on behalf of residents of Haxby requesting action to improve traffic issues on Calf Close, Haxby.^{4.}
- v) Cllr Cunningham-Cross on behalf of residents of Skelton calling for faster broadband provision for the village.^{5.}
- vi) Cllr Scott on behalf of residents of The Avenue and Westminster Road requesting action in relation to traffic issues that were being experienced.^{6.}
- vii) Cllr Aspden on behalf of residents in Dringhouses and Woodthorpe, Dunnington and Fulford, Huntington and New Earswick and other areas asking for the Council to return the litter and dog bins removed over the summer.^{7.}

- viii) Cllr Orrell on behalf of residents in Huntington concerned that changes to the Number 5 bus service had made it unreliable and calling on First to review and improve the service for local residents. ^{8.}
- ix) Cllr Reid on behalf of residents concerned about the reliability of the Number 12 bus service in Woodthorpe and requesting improvements to the route and timings. ^{9.}
- x) Cllr Brooks on behalf of residents of Holtby asking that the Vehicle Activated Sign that was removed last year be relocated in the village. ^{10.}

Action Required

1 and 2, 4, 6 and 8 to 10. Schedule items on Forward Plan, if required, and keep relevant member updated on progress.	SS
3 and 7. Schedule items on Forward Plan, if required, and keep relevant member updated on progress	KS
5. Schedule item on Forward Plan, if required, and keep relevant member updated on progress	RR

36. REPORT OF CABINET LEADER AND CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

A written report was received from the Cabinet Leader, Cllr James Alexander, on the work of the Cabinet.

A Questions

Notice had been received of six questions on the written report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The first five questions were put and answered as follows and Cllr Alexander undertook to provide Members with written answers to the remaining questions:

- i) From Cllr Runciman: “While the report mentions the inward investment of Hiscox, it fails to mention the predicted loss of 160 jobs in York through the closure of the Royal Mail sorting office

and the loss of the York postmark. Could the Cabinet Leader outline what representations he made on these issues?"

The Leader replied:

This issue has been a sad one over many years. I recall debates about it in this chamber before the general election. My representations were made through Hugh Bayley and the CWU who have been heavily involved in this issue from the beginning. I do not believe the current or last government has been fair to Royal Mail and I have previously pledged to stand up for Royal Mail remaining in public hands.

- ii) From Cllr Ayre: "Could the Leader outline what additional borrowing the Council will incur as a result of the deal to sell the Hungate site?"

The Leader replied:

I would like to refer you to paragraph 22 on page 25 of the October Cabinet agenda. It said

"The financing cost of the total current borrowing (the £3.77m) is currently being met from the Council's treasury management budget, prior to the receipt for the land. In receiving a lower capital receipt than assumed, there is no immediate additional cost, given the borrowing has in effect already taken place. The capital receipt will actually improve the Council's overall debt position in the short term".

This figure is taken into account in the £190m capital programme as outlined in performance monitor 1. There is no impact on short term borrowing. Long term the impact is £1.6m.

However it makes sense to pursue this deal. The office and hotel complex will create 600 jobs and great £42m GVA. I also welcome the comments sent by your Group which welcomed the job creation this sale will bring.

Not only does this sale create jobs and GVA, it also progresses a prime site in our city centre which this council wrote off £1.1m on in an abortive council office transfer scheme in 2009.

- iii) From Cllr Runciman: "Could the Leader outline the proposed timetable for implementing the living wage as proposed in the Liberal Democrat budget and the Fairness Commission's recommendations?"

The Leader replied:

At the moment I cannot. We are currently working through the implications, timescales and negotiations required. This isn't something that can be implemented instantly due to negotiations required with trade unions and implications on terms and conditions as well as possible pay claims for more senior staff. The Liberal Democrat proposed budget amendment was unsustainable and was not the living wage. I also welcome the Liberal Democrat's support for this policy that we announced within six months of this administration. I am not sure why it took your Group so long to support such a policy when you could have implemented the living wage at any point over your time in control.

- iv) From Cllr Cuthbertson: “Further to the Leader’s comments on both the DIF and EIF Funds, could he provide a detailed breakdown of the economic benefit of each scheme funded through his ‘Delivery & Innovation Fund’ and ‘Economic Infrastructure Fund’ respectively?”

The Leader replied:

It should be first noted that the purpose of the Delivery and Innovation Fund (DIF) is to facilitate the development of new and innovative ways of working, support areas requiring one-off investment and support major project delivery. It is not the intention that all schemes funded by the DIF have a direct economic impact. Whilst many schemes funded by the DIF may have direct and indirect economic benefits, social impact of the schemes is also an important consideration, as is the future capacity and capability they generate. Many of the DIF schemes are feasibility type studies as the essential first step in establishing the expected benefits (economic or otherwise) of a larger, future scheme (likely to be funded through another route).

Economic component to DIF schemes include:

York800

Direct: York800 events have so far generated £6.6m for the city’s economy; footfall up 13% on normal over charter weekend.

Indirect: promotion of York as a tourist destination, national publicity for the city

Queen’s Visit

Direct: 20,000 additional visitors in the city on the visit day with approx £1m economic impact

Indirect: promotion of York as a tourist destination; publicising future York events

York Gold

Direct: 80,000 visitors associated with the torch relays with approx £2.4m economic impact.

Guildhall RIBA competition

Indirect: The competition brief will require the exploration of potential uses but certainly including a strong suggestion that high value uses including serviced office accommodation taking advantage of improved City Centre and Riverside Connectivity and related leisure opportunities.

Warden Call - scope for Social Enterprise

Indirect: Feasibility study for new service delivery model. If taken forward, it is envisaged that a variety of different functions would be explored which may also lead to new employment opportunities within the new organisation.

Oliver House - Health & Social Care Hub

Indirect: Scheme is a feasibility study for a second phase. Second phase is estimated to create six part time and one full time jobs plus a number of volunteer, training and apprentice opportunities will be created within the organisations based in the Hub, with the aim of increasing employability. A number of further permanent posts will be created as voluntary organisations develop new projects based in the Hub.

Bonding Warehouse - Digital Media Hub

Indirect: feasibility study. CYC will assess the contribution of the future phases of the project to the economy, measured by GVA, if invited to proceed to the next stage. Initial indications are potential for up to 200 jobs (combined direct and indirect).

Public Wi-Fi - Museum Gardens area

Indirect: Will have positive impacts on the day trip, event based and longer stay visitor trade to the City and the associated Service and transport sectors. Additional visitors to the Mystery Plays over short term. Indirect jobs created through the support of the tourism sector.

Rail Policy

Indirect: Securing improved rail transport links between York and the UK will bring and retain jobs in the City. Enabling access to significant transport funding from central government.

Upper Floors Review

Indirect: By demonstrating the scope of opportunity to bring empty upper floors back into use and the financial viability of doing so, the project is expected to act as a catalyst for investment. In doing so it would lead to the creation of construction related jobs, increase the number of people living in the city centre and hence also it's diversity which in turn will bring further economic and social benefits. It will assist in delivering much needed housing at market, intermediate or affordable rents. Conversion of underused property to residential will bring additional revenue through council tax and, depending on timescales new homes bonus too.

EIF spend and benefits

Project	EIF Spend	Jobs	GVA	Leverage	Economic benefits - narrative
<i>Park and Ride</i>	<i>£2,500,000</i>	<i>Indirect impact</i>	<i>Indirect impact</i>	<i>£15m DfT funding</i>	<i>Improved connectivity, leading to greater economic opportunity for all residents; improved footfall in the city centre</i>
<i>Better Bus Fund</i>	<i>1,665,000</i>	<i>Indirect impact</i>	<i>Indirect impact</i>	<i>£2.9m DfT funding</i>	<i>Improved connectivity, leading to greater economic opportunity for all residents; improved footfall in the city centre</i>
<i>Digital, media and cultural centre (subject to due diligence; agreed in principle)</i>	<i>1,400,000</i>	<i>377 direct and indirect</i>	<i>Indirect impact</i>	<i>£1m LEP Funding £1.3m ERDF</i>	<i>Inward investment and new starts enabled through the provision of space</i>

<p><i>High Growth Business Support (SCY)</i></p>	<p><i>80,000</i></p>	<p><i>150 indirect</i></p>	<p><i>£1m indirect</i></p>	<p><i>Delivery of strategy and deliverables to support media arts industry including Digital Media and Cultural Centre</i></p> <p><i>Identification of and development of projects that will add to the city's growing capacity in the biorenewables/biosciences industries</i></p> <p><i>Production of regular reports on issues/opportunities in the IT/digital, creative and biosciences industries, along with other high growth industries as appropriate</i></p> <p><i>Growth in number of jobs in high growth industries</i></p> <p><i>Growth in GVA from high growth industries</i></p>
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<p><i>Tour de France Bid</i></p>	<p>50,000</p>		<p><i>In London, generated £75m additional GVA – even 5% of this impact for York would be £3.75m</i></p>	<p><i>Increased brand recognition of York as a destination for business, visitors and living (as measured by market perceptions work) to 190 countries via international broadcasting, and</i></p> <p><i>Increased footfall for the event in the region of more than 25% (using Olympic torch relay as a benchmark)</i></p> <p><i>Increased longer term footfall from return visitors (99% of visitors would return and 94% would recommend to family and friends from 2009/10 Yorkshire Visitor Survey)</i></p> <p><i>Potential for increase in spend in the visitor, retail and leisure economy</i></p> <p><i>Increase in proportion of visitors from overseas markets – currently 5% (as per Fact 2009, Visit York)</i></p>
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Reinvigorate York Initial Project	200,000	Indirect impact	Up to £320K		<p>An increase in visitor numbers – most likely from repeat visits</p> <p>An increase in business investment and diversity of that investment – either through growth of existing city centre businesses and/or the attraction of more new investment</p> <p>An increase in GVA – the estimate provided by English Heritage is that public realm investments of this type contribute up to £1.6 for every £1 expenditure</p>
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These details have been published in previous cabinet papers.

- v) From Cllr Ayre: On the Tour De France bid, could the Leader provide a complete analysis of where money has been spent and where York's bid stands in comparison to rival locations?

The Leader replied:

The Yorkshire bid for the Tour de France is a bid by Welcome to Yorkshire with the support of many local authorities. Welcome to Yorkshire will not provide the financial breakdown of this bid so as not to jeopardise the bid or itself by releasing commercially confidential information. York has committed £50k towards the bid. The Gross Value Added (GVA) is projected to be £73m. This was outlined in 17th July Cabinet papers.

The Tour de France is the largest annual sporting event in the world, with 2bn spectators worldwide watching either live or on TV/internet/radio. The Grand Depart will be broadcast on 100 TV channels, 70 radio stations, 400 newspapers and press agencies, 70 websites, that is to say 2,300 journalists representing 35 nationalities (using 2011 figures), broadcasting in 185 countries

on 92 channels, of which 60 transmit live coverage; and receiving 14 million unique visitors to its website, generating a platform for showcasing the cities in which the event takes place.

Benefits to London in holding the Grand Depart was £88m to the region and £35m media coverage.

There is a rival bid from Scotland, but I believe we are in a great position to be successful given the hard work that has gone into Yorkshire's bid and the reaction of organisers on their visit to the region.

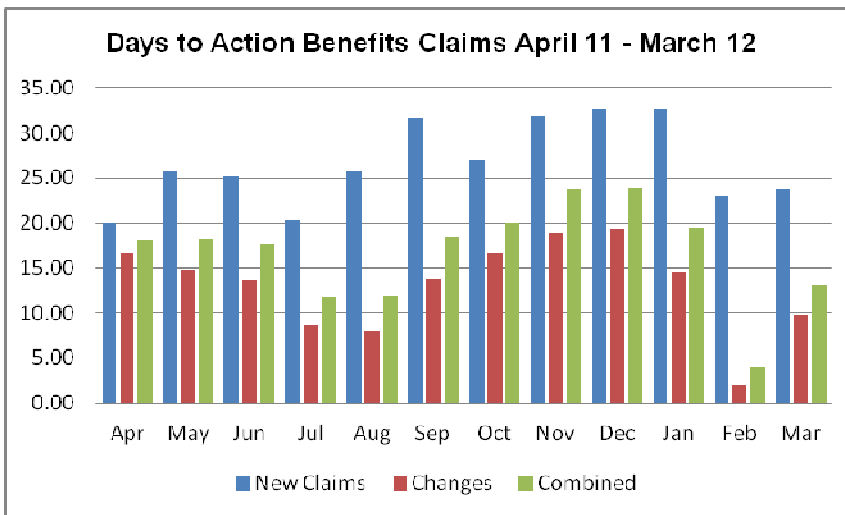
- vi) From Cllr Cuthbertson: In light of his comments on the benefits advice office, could the Leader provide a detailed breakdown of performance times over the last 18 months in the processing of new and changed circumstance council tax and housing benefit claims?

Reply:

I have listed below the performance data over the past 18 months.

Benefits Customer Contact April 2011- March 2012

RECEPTION	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
MONTHLY RECEPTION NUMBERS	1639	1790	1958	1892	1870	2329	2945	2345	2086	2452	2341	2653
DAILY RECEPTION NUMBERS	82	94	89	86	78	97	140	107	99	123	117	111
% CHANGE ON PREVIOUS YEAR	-15%	3%	0%	-12%	-8%	6%	50%	14%	49%	16%	37%	15%
% OF PEOPLE SEEN IN 10 MINS	85%	90%	92%	89%	86%	95%	98%	98%	93%	89%	91%	93%
APPOINTMENTS BOOKED	11/126	12/140	16/154	12/154	10/154	20/160	10/160	14/150	13/150	10/150	7/150	24/132
TELEPHONE	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
TOTAL CALLS OFFERED	2085	2390	2146	2153	2231	2194	2227	2065	1780	2285	2015	3011
TOTAL CALLS ANSWERED	2026	2333	2108	2093	2123	2077	2142	1983	1705	2163	1921	2781
ANSWERED IN 20 SECONDS	1848	2147	1966	1960	1834	1818	1995	1883	1492	1880	1831	2569
TOTAL CALLS ABANDONED	59	57	38	60	108	117	85	82	75	122	94	230
% CALLS ANSWERED	97.2%	97.6%	98.2%	97.2%	95.2%	94.7%	96.2%	96.0%	95.8%	94.7%	95.3%	92.4%
% CALLS ABANDONED	2.8%	2.4%	1.8%	2.8%	4.8%	5.3%	3.8%	4.0%	4.2%	5.3%	4.7%	7.6%
% SERVICE LEVEL	88.6%	89.8%	91.6%	91.0%	82.2%	82.9%	89.6%	91.2%	87.5%	86.9%	85.4%	80.1%
E-MAIL	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
CUSTOMER E-MAILS	188	260	198	269	239	277	278	325	107	130	153	115
INTERNAL CUSTOMER E-MAILS	114	104	94	60	73	101	124	89	219	326	228	301
TOTAL	302	364	292	329	312	378	402	414	326	456	381	416

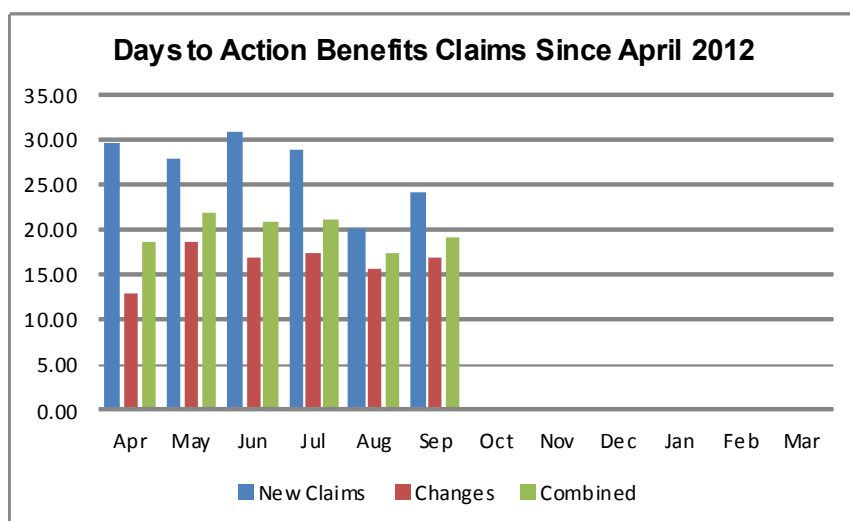


Benefits Customer Contact April 2012 – September 2012

RECEPTION	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
MONTHLY RECEPTION NUMBERS	2184	2340	2099	2210	1911	2007
DAILY RECEPTION NUMBERS	109	123	95	100	80	84
% CHANGE ON PREVIOUS YEAR	33%	31%	7%	17%	2%	-14%
% OF PEOPLE SEEN IN 10 MINS	90%	95%	95%	90%	90%	90%
APPOINTMENTS BOOKED	18/110	5/115	10/095	7/110	6/110	2/100

TELEPHONE	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
TOTAL CALLS OFFERED	2486	2568	2040	2500	2137	2110
TOTAL CALLS ANSWERED	2336	2357	1904	2146	1976	1914
ANSWERED IN 20 SECONDS	1866	1930	1634	1436	1545	1413
TOTAL CALLS ABANDONED	150	211	136	354	161	196
% CALLS ANSWERED	94.0%	91.8%	93.3%	85.8%	92.5%	90.7%
% CALLS ANSWERED in < 20 seconds	79.9%	81.9%	85.8%	66.9%	78.2%	73.8%
% CALLS ABANDONED	6.0%	8.2%	6.7%	14.2%	7.5%	9.3%
% SERVICE LEVEL	79.9%	81.9%	85.8%	66.9%	78.2%	73.8%

E-MAIL	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
CUSTOMER E-MAILS	161	207	183	207	212	195
INTERNAL CUSTOMER E-MAILS	241	183	111	195	124	135
TOTAL	402	390	294	402	336	330



NEW CLAIMS**2011/12****New Claims (Receipt Date to Calculation)**

Month	No of New HB Claims	Average Days to process HB Claims	No of New CTB Claims	Average Days to process CTB Claims	Average Days to Process all New Claims
Apr	296	19.41	328	20.61	20.04
May	325	24.39	339	26.78	25.61
Jun	313	22.56	336	27.56	25.15
Jul	358	20.41	363	20.28	20.34
Aug	325	24.55	301	26.95	25.71
Sep	333	31.74	321	31.71	31.72
Oct	416	27.30	384	26.87	27.09
Nov	370	32.28	364	31.40	31.84
Dec	272	31.03	270	34.49	32.76
Jan	435	32.53	418	32.90	32.71
Feb	397	22.36	398	23.80	23.08
Mar	340	22.15	361	25.35	23.80
YTD	4180	26.05	4183	27.30	26.67

2012/13**New Claims (Receipt Date to Calculation)**

Month	No of New HB Claims	Average Days to process HB Claims	No of New CTB Claims	Average Days to process CTB Claims	Average Days to Process all New Claims
Apr	274	28.77	285	30.29	29.54
May	424	25.92	434	29.96	27.96
Jun	216	29.36	241	32.11	30.81
Jul	435	28.43	431	29.44	28.93
Aug	330	13.22	334	27.14	20.22
Sep	333	24.53	326	23.38	23.96
YTD	2012	24.91	2051	28.65	26.79

CHANGES OF CIRCUMSTANCE**2011/12****Changes of Circumstance (First contact date to Calculation)**

Month	Number of HB Changes	average days to process a change on HB	Number of CTB Changes	average days to process a change on CTB	Average Days to Process all changes
Apr	328	20.61	413	13.34	16.56
May	802	14.54	610	14.97	14.73
Jun	780	13.23	518	14.56	13.76
Jul	1171	8.74	821	8.66	8.71
Aug	1247	7.89	873	7.85	7.88
Sep	1119	13.66	767	14.13	13.85
Oct	1011	15.49	665	18.17	16.55
Nov	708	18.65	514	19.14	18.86
Dec	619	19.09	427	19.78	19.37
Jan	990	18.81	1298	11.24	14.51
Feb	7119	1.07	467	15.92	1.98
Mar	1659	7.78	661	15.11	9.87
YTD	17553	8.20	8034	13.61	9.90

2012/13**Changes of Circumstance (First contact date to Calculation)**

Month	Number of HB Changes	average days to process a change on HB	Number of CTB Changes	average days to process a change on CTB	Average Days to Process all changes
Apr	609	12.14	444	13.80	12.84
May	999	18.25	687	19.03	18.57
Jun	699	16.26	480	17.93	16.94
Jul	1099	16.15	617	19.85	17.48
Aug	781	14.87	554	16.98	15.75
Sep	802	18.01	591	15.52	16.95
YTD	4989	16.19	3373	17.38	16.67

NEW CLAIMS AND	CHANGES COMBINED
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2011/12

NEW CLAIMS AND CHANGES COMBINED N181 (First contact date to Calculation)					
Month	Number of New Claims	average days to process a New Claims	Number of Changes	average days to process a change	Average days to process News and Changes
Apr	624	20.04	741	16.56	18.15
May	664	25.61	1412	14.73	18.21
Jun	649	25.15	1298	13.76	17.56
Jul	721	20.34	1992	8.71	11.80
Aug	626	25.71	2120	7.88	11.94
Sep	654	31.72	1886	13.85	18.45
Oct	800	27.09	1676	16.55	19.96
Nov	734	31.84	1222	18.86	23.73
Dec	542	32.76	1046	19.37	23.94
Jan	853	32.71	2288	14.51	19.46
Feb	795	23.08	7586	1.98	3.98
Mar	701	23.80	2320	9.87	13.10
YTD	8363	26.67	25587	9.90	14.03

2012/13

NEW CLAIMS AND CHANGES COMBINED (First contact date to Calculation)					
Month	Number of New Claims	average days to process a New Claims	Number of Changes	average days to process a change	Average days to process News and Changes
Apr	559	29.54	1053	12.84	18.63
May	858	27.96	1686	18.57	21.74
Jun	457	30.81	1179	16.94	20.81
Jul	866	28.93	1716	17.48	21.32
Aug	664	20.22	1335	15.75	17.23
Sep	659	23.96	1393	16.95	19.20
YTD	4063	26.79	8362	16.67	19.98

B Cabinet Recommendations

Capital Programme Outturn 2011/12 and Revisions to the 2012/13 – 2016/17 Programme

Cllr Alexander moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded the following recommendations contained in Minute 12 of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 July 2012.

- “i) [That Council] use £1.5m of Prudential Borrowing for the Primary School Strategic Programme in 2011/12 with the associated revenue implications to be met from the Children’s Services budgets and repaid over a period of 25 years from savings made as a result of the amalgamation of the schools.”¹*

- ii) [That Council] approve the restated 2012/13 to 2016/17 programme as summarised in Table 3 and detailed in Annex 1 of the report, taking account of the re-profiling of schemes.”²*

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

RESOLVED: That the above recommendations in respect of the Capital Programme Outturn for 2011/12 and Revisions to the 2012/13 - 2016/17 Programme be approved.

Sale of the Hungate Site

Cllr Alexander moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded the following recommendations contained in Minute 34 of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 October 2012, set out in the papers circulated around the chamber:

- i) “ [That Council] agree to commence negotiations for the sale of the Hungate site to the Hiscox development partner, Bidder 2.”³*

- ii) [That Council] delegate authority to the Director of Customer and Business Support Services the power to finalise an agreement for the sale of the land to Bidder 2 at a commercial market value being not less than the figure set out in Annex 2 of the report⁴.*

- iii) *[That Council] agree to the amendment of the capital programme financing, reducing capital receipts by £1.627m, with a corresponding increase in prudential borrowing.”*⁵.

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

RESOLVED: That the above recommendations in respect of the sale of the Hungate site be approved.

Admin Accommodation Portfolio – Further Property Rationalisation

Cllr Alexander moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded the following recommendations contained in Minute 35 of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 October 2012, also set out in the papers circulated around the chamber:

- i) *“[That Council] agree the proposals for amending the design of Hazel Court to accommodate additional staff and an increased range of facilities.”*⁶.
- ii) *[That Council] be requested to create a capital budget of £618k to be funded from revenue savings achieved by exiting the 3 additional buildings.”*⁷.

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

RESOLVED: That the above recommendations in respect of the Admin Accommodation Portfolio be approved.

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Undertake prudential borrowing for the Primary School Strategic Programme, as set out in the report to Cabinet. | LB |
| 2. Make changes to Capital Programme as set out in Cabinet report. | LB |
| 3. Commence negotiations for sale of the site to Bidder 2. | TC |
| 4. Finalise agreement for sale at a commercial market value, not less than that set out at Annex 2 of the Cabinet report. | IF |
| 5. Amend the capital programme financing as | |

- agreed. LB
6. Amend design of Hazel Court in line with that set out in the Cabinet report. TC
7. Take any steps necessary to create a capital budget funded from revenue savings for this project. TC

37. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Runciman, as Chair of the Joint Standards Committee, confirmed that three interviews had been held for the appointment of independent persons to sit on the Joint Standards Committee, following the implementation of the new standards arrangements. One offer had now been made however, it had not been possible to confirm the appointment with the successful candidate prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that any confirmation would be reported to the December Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That Council note the update on the appointment of Independent Persons to sit on the Joint Standards Committee.

38. SCRUTINY - REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE CORPORATE AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Council received the report of the Chair of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee at pages 29 to 34, on the work of the Committee.

Councillor Runciman then moved and Cllr Steward seconded acceptance of the report and it was

RESOLVED: That the scrutiny report be received and noted.

39. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Councillor Alexander, presented the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to Members' allowances and reimbursements, namely:

“That:

- (1) Council adopt an appropriately amended scheme of allowances , having had regard to the recommendations of the IRP ;
- (2) The Director of Customer and Business Support Services be authorised to implement any changes agreed to the current scheme from an agreed date; and
- (3) The Monitoring Officer be authorised to make and report any arising constitutional changes.”

Cllr Alexander then moved, and Cllr Gillies seconded, the following amendment to the motion, as circulated in the additional papers circulated around the chamber:

“That Council appreciates the recommendations of the Panel in their report but, having had regard to those recommendations, it rejects them at this time and retains the existing Scheme of Allowances for Members.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above motion in respect of the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel be approved.

40. **REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER**

Council received a written report from Cllr Merrett, Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability.

Notice had been received of fourteen questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The first ten questions were put and answered as follows and Members agreed to receive written answers to their remaining questions, as set out below:

(i) From Cllr Reid:

“The Cabinet member refers under LTP3 to “a step change in bus services” in the City. Would he therefore publish:

- a) The results, on a service by service basis, of any *mystery traveller* type checks on punctuality undertaken during the last 18 months.”

Cabinet Member replied:

“A majority of the bus routes in York are neither commissioned or funded by City of York Council. Any punctuality information shared with the Council is currently confidential and for the specific purpose of seeking to identify and improve key areas of delay. As part of the proposed review and re-launch of York’s Quality Bus Partnership, the Council will seek to establish agreement on a means by which the public dissemination of reliability data might be achieved.”

- b) Any information provided by bus operators on the punctuality of services operated under Council contracts”

Cabinet Member replied:

“I will look into this, but it would be best if this was done as part of a comprehensive arrangement covering all York’s bus services in an established and agreed format.”

- (ii) From Cllr D'Agorne:

“Please can Cllr Merrett explain "a Low Carbon Investment Pipeline"? When will this result in investment in renewable energy in buildings in the city?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“York’s Low Carbon Investment Pipeline links to a wider piece of work taking place at a Leeds City Region level. The purpose is to develop a portfolio of low carbon / renewable energy projects across the LCR that demonstrate the investment opportunities to the investment community and ensure the region and York is well placed, as the Leader has just indicated in other areas, to respond quickly and effectively to appropriate funding opportunities when they arise. York’s Low Carbon Investment Pipeline sets out those projects & opportunities that represent investment opportunities in York e.g. renewable heat in off-gas social housing areas of the City; detailed feasibility studies to determine the appropriateness of heat networks in defined locations across York (for example a cluster to the south-east of the City centred on the University of York, or York Central).

While the low carbon / renewable energy projects have been broadly identified, to develop them any further requires both initial / detailed feasibility and technical and financial assessments. Delivery will also depend on actual development opportunities, and putting together the necessary funding packages. As a result a defined timeframe cannot be associated with any of the projects identified through the Low Carbon Investment Pipeline.”

(iii) From Cllr Reid:

“Will the Cabinet member agree to publish, possibly through the new “i-travel York website” that he describes in his report, the number of “All York” bus tickets sold each month including the number actually sold during July, August and September?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“All York’ is a commercially agreed multi-operator bus ticket. Any decision to share the ticket sales will need, therefore, to be agreed by all the bus operators through the ticket’s management committee.”

(iv) From Cllr Semlyen:

“Please will the Cabinet Member investigate declaring York Hydrolic Frack Free within the Local Development Plan, or else the legal wording of limiting conditions of any drilling operations potentially affecting York’s drinking water supplies and consequent public health?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“Officers are not aware of any ‘Hydraulic Fracking’ in York and indeed if it is possible in the York area. We will therefore need to consider Hydraulic Fracking as part of the new Local Plan process, and establish whether we can make York a Hydraulic Frack Free area, or agree appropriate conditions, and that will need to take place through more detailed investigations.”

(v): From Cllr Warters:

“Further to the Cabinet Members comments on student accommodation, does he believe that the Council’s database of known HMO’s is accurate and robust enough to enable Planning Officers and Planning Committees to fairly determine change of use applications from C3 to C4 HMO as recent applications in the Osbaldwick Ward have highlighted serious deficiencies in the Council’s records?”

Cabinet Member replied:

- *“In accordance with the Draft SPD (Supplementary Planning Document), to capture as many different types of shared accommodation as possible the Council uses council tax records, licensed HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation), properties benefiting from class C4 or sui generis HMO planning consent and properties known to the Council to be HMOs. These data sets are collated to calculate the proportion of shared households as a percentage of all households.*
- *Officers consider that these sources will provide the best approach to identifying the numbers and location of HMOs in an area, although it is accepted that it may not be possible to identify all properties of this type.*
- *Given that the information collated may be expected to change over the course of the calendar year as houses and households move in and out of the private rented sector officers are suggesting it would be appropriate to base the assessment on a single point in the year. Accordingly, data will be updated annually, in May, to allow for a complete picture of Council Tax returns, alongside licensed HMOs, properties benefiting from HMO planning consent and any other HMOs known to the Council.*
- *As with any planning guidance, the Draft SPD is only a starting point and other material considerations can be taken into account if considered appropriate by the Development Management Officer on a case by case basis. As such, should there be a specific application whereby there are known HMOs over and above our records, and the Development Management Officer is happy there is compelling evidence that they are established HMOs, there is sufficient flexibility to allow these HMOs to be considered in the calculations of concentrations of HMOs for the particular application.”*

(vi) From Cllr Reid:

“The Cabinet Member refers under LTP3 to a ‘step change in bus services’ in the city. Would he therefore agree – in line with the wishes of the Department of Transport – to support the new **York Bus Watch** campaign group in their endeavours to ensure that all local bus operators publish details of the reliability achieved each month on each of their service routes?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“The Council has not been approached by ‘York Bus Watch’ and has no information on its remit/membership. I would be pleased to engage with them and understand how ‘Buswatch’s’ work could be integrated with that undertaken by national organisations, ‘Bus Users UK’ and their local members, and Passenger Focus’.”

(vii) From Cllr D’Agorne:

“What lobbying of central government is taking place in response to the revelation that major energy companies now consider the UK as an unreliable investment proposition?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“None to date.”

(viii) From Cllr D’Agorne:

“What research has been done on the Idling Vehicle Strategy Feasibility proposal, from other UK authorities and why has this not already been raised as an issue with bus and taxi operators in York?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“There have been past discussions with local bus operators, leading to some action to curb idling when a bus is laying over for some length of time. Officers were not aware of this Feasibility proposal and if Cllr. D’Agorne can provide some further information that would be helpful.”

(ix) From Cllr Reid:

“The Cabinet Member in the Better Bus Fund bid promised a wide range of measures to improve bus services in York. In light of this, why did the Cabinet member not receive the scheduled report on bus service improvements at his September meeting (as was promised at the last Council meeting) and when can passengers now expect the promised improvements to come into effect?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“The Bus Improvement Study will report in October. The Better Bus Area Fund work has not been delayed as a result and work is ongoing to deliver the improvements.”

(x) From Cllr D'Agorne:

“How many electric vehicles are there in the council fleet?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“None currently. However, officers have been looking at a number of electric vehicles during the year and assessing their suitability and what the needs are for a charging infrastructure. In addition, the council has been successful in receiving funding and support from the Energy Saving Trust to identify where electric vehicles could replace fossil fuel vehicles currently in the councils fleet. This piece of work is ongoing and is due to be concluded by the end of December 2012. The work also includes a survey of council facilities to assess what charging infrastructure is required and achievable. A report will then follow from the EST which will be considered by officers and members.”

(xi) From Cllr D'Agorne:

“Will Professor Simpson have a say in the visioning workshops process? Or has the City Beautiful report now been abandoned in the light of the Monks Cross decision?”

Reply:

“No to the first question, but the York City Beautiful report is an evidence base document. It reflects the consultation workshops which took place at the time of its production. It will continue to be part of the evidence base which will be used to help us progress the Local Plan and set the context for the new Local Plan.”

(xii) From Cllr Reid:

“The report confirms that a key strategy of this Council is to provide provide quality alternatives to the car. The news that the council is part funding First to operate a new Service 15 (Monday to Saturday) in the South Bank area and evening and Sunday buses for Service 14 from Acomb via Beckfield Lane to York as well funding Yorkshire Coastliner to operate the Sunday route 16 service from York to Acomb, appears to fit with this strategy. However, we would like to know when was the decision taken to agree these subsidies, by whom was the decision taken, why were other routes also not considered for subsidy, what is the cost to taxpayers of the subsidies that were agreed and where can Council members read the background papers which informed this decision?”

Reply:

“The areas covered by these three routes are those which would have been left with no bus service following First Group’s commercially operated local bus network changes. The only other area of York to see its First service withdrawn completely was the section between Heslington West and Heslington East, which is provided for by Coastliner’s route 44.

All of the contracts have been let on a trial basis to enable officers to assess take up, consider the viability of the temporary services and to devise longer term routes/timetables. When this work has been completed, the proposals will be brought to the appropriate Council decision meeting prior to the undertaking of a competitive tendering exercise.”

(xiii) From Cllr D’Agorne:

“Climate Change – Will this now be a standard yardstick for future development proposals in the city?”

Reply:

“The Interim Planning Statement on Sustainable Design and Construction requires developers to consider a wide range of sustainability criteria, including those that will have an effect on reducing the impact of climate change e.g. requirement for all major developments to achieve 10% of their energy demand through low and zero carbon technologies.

Sustainability and climate change will be key themes that run throughout the new Local Plan and it is envisaged that there will be a separate chapter detailing specific requirements relating to environmental assessment e.g. Code for Sustainable Homes / BREEAM, and targets for low and zero carbon technologies / energy efficiency / carbon reductions. Targets and policies set within the Local Plan will need to be underpinned by detailed viability to ensure they are deliverable.”

(xiv) From Cllr D’Agorne:

“Welcome the comparisons, but could you comment on recent reports from Fulford Parish Council suggesting that Persimmon are not committed to raising the A19 where it flooded if the Germany Beck development proceeds?”

Reply:

*“Officers have spoken with Persimmon this morning, and confirm that Persimmon are **fully committed** to raising the level of the A19 in accordance with the approved scheme (the intention being to raise the level of the A19 locally to allow access and egress even in times when the river is in flood). They would also undertake flood storage mitigation measures on site .”*

41. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Minutes of the following meetings had been made available for Members to view on the Council’s website:

- Fire Authority – 20 June 2012
- Police Authority – 25 June 2012
- Safer York Partnerships – 9 August 2012
- Local Government North Yorkshire & York – 12 July 2012
- Without Walls – 21 May 2012

No questions had been submitted to representatives on outside bodies.

42. NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Permitted Development Rights

It was moved by Cllr Simpson-Laing and seconded by Cllr Merrett that:

“The City of York Council is concerned over the recent announcement that will allow household extensions, through Permitted Development Rights, to double in size without the need for Planning Consent

Council is concerned about the detrimental effect such large extensions could have on neighbours and neighbourhoods.

Council requests that Government undertake an extensive consultation on the extensions of Permitted Development Rights. ¹.

Council requests that the Director of City and Environment bring forward proposals for an 'Article Four Direction', to limit the size of Household extensions not requiring Planning Consent, if the Government presses ahead with the proposed changes." ².

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

RESOLVED: That the above motion be approved.

(ii) Salt and Green Waste Bins

It was moved by Cllr Galvin and seconded by Cllr Steward that:

"Council believes in these difficult economic times, caused by the previous Labour government's financial incompetence, that the priority must be to protect both the vulnerable and residents' most basic council services. Council therefore pledges:

1. To restock and to maintain all existing salt bins throughout the coming winter: and
2. To rule out any additional charges to residents for the provision and removal of green waste bins for the remainder of this council.

The costs associated with these commitments, approximately £34k will be met by reallocating from the Economic Infrastructure Fund, £34,000 from New Homes Bonus funds for 12/13 and, from 13/14, by reducing the cost of Union support by the same sum"

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

RESOLVED: That the above motion be not approved.

(iii) Salt Bins

In accordance with his powers under Standing Orders, the Lord Mayor ruled the following motion, which had been submitted by Cllr Reid, out of order as it also related to the refilling of salt bins and substantially repeated the previous motion debated in Cllr Galvin's name:

"Council Notes:

Councillor Sonja Crisp's promise to Full Council in March that "all the salt bins required across all wards will be refilled from the core budget".

The decision taken last month by Councillor David Levene, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, not to refill the 170 salt bins previously maintained through funding provided via ward committees.

Cuts and changes to the ward committee budgets now prevent these decisions being addressed at ward level.

Council believes:

- The plans to reduce overall salt bin provision in York from around 369 full bins to around 199 will, in a bad winter, have a significant and detrimental impact.
- Leaving the bins out empty is likely to lead to a further deterioration in their condition and make it harder to bring them back into use next winter.
- Public confusion is likely as residents will not know which salt bins are full and which salt bins are empty until they need to use them.
- The decision to cut provision before the promised review of salt bin locations for the winter of 2013/14 is misguided, as is the decision not to consult local residents or local councillors.
- The mistakes Labour made over the removal of 1-in-4 of York's dog and litter bins are being repeated.

Council calls on Councillor Levene to reverse his decision and refill all salt bins for this winter pending a review of salt bins locations for next winter, and carry out an assessment of which bins are in need of repair. The initial £17,000 cost would be funded by reducing the budget for Cabinet Members Allowances from £128,625 to £110,625.”

(iv) From Cllr Alexander

It was moved by Cllr Alexander and seconded by Cllr D'Agorne that:

“City of York Council is experiencing almost a third cut in funding from the Conservative-led Government. This has led to unpopular service reductions and the situation is becoming critical.

Local Government is being asked to find savings that far outweigh Government expenditure reductions in other areas. In 2014/15 there will be a 0.6% reduction in public expenditure but Local Government will experience a cut 9 times higher. In York the savings required could be 17 times as high.

From 2003 to 2010 City of York Council received an additional £52m in funding from the Labour Government. During which time the Liberal

Democrat administration led a 'Fair deal for York' campaign which said York was underfunded.

Since the General Election the Council has had to identify £41m of savings. York is contributing to deficit reduction but the Conservative-led Government is using deficit panic to attack York's public services.

At the 2010 General Election no party won. The Conservative-led Government has no mandate for their destructive course of action and the Government only exists because of choices made by the Liberal Democrats. Council will pledge its commitment to lead on and sign up to a non-partisan 'Enough is Enough' campaign to stop the Government attacking York's public services."

Councillor Steward then moved and Cllr Healey seconded, an amendment to the above motion as follows:

Delete all wording following the words "City of York Council is" in paragraph 1 to "attacking" in the final paragraph and **replace** with

"like other councils across the country is experiencing cuts in government funding due to the appalling incompetence of the previous Labour government which, as with all previous Labour governments, left the country teetering on the verge of bankruptcy.

Council registers its anger that the previous Labour government was so foolish with its spending and inept in its running of the economy that when they left government they had increased borrowing by more than every previous UK government in history combined. Council is appalled that Labour left the country with a record deficit, a record debt, record numbers of people who have never had a job, a record number of young people unemployed and in many areas of the country a terrible benefits dependency against people who should be working.

Although council welcomes some of the spending done by the previous government, including the increase in NHS and education funding, council is disappointed that so much of it was spent inefficiently. However ultimately council is appalled that Labour got the spending so wrong that when it left power the government was spending £4 for £3 it received in and borrowing a record £175 billion to cover the current year's deficit. Council agrees with the simple summary of former Labour Minister Liam Byrne that 'there is no money left'.

Council welcomes the decisions the coalition has taken to bring borrowing under control and ensure the UK can borrow at low rates,

rather than risk a return to borrowing from the IMF as many feel would have been inevitable if Labour had got into power.

Council believes it is vital we seek to work for the good of the people of York in doing practical things to help them in these tough times, but in acknowledgement of the number of York's cabinet members who seem to like asking the Chief Executive to write to MPs council requests the following letters be sent:

- 1. To Julian Sturdy MP to congratulate him as a local MP for the work he is doing in the tough job of making realistic and sensible decisions to bring the UK's finances back under control*
- 2. To Ed Milliband MP to say that it is disingenuous and wrong of him to lead a party which has said many times would have made 90% of the cuts the coalition government is making to oppose virtually every cut proposed refuse to give details of where more than a tiny amount of where Labour's cuts would come from.*
- 3. To David Cameron MP to urge him to continue to protect important public services like the NHS with ring-fenced funding, so that hard working individuals and families get the services they want and need, rather than suffering due to Labour's incompetence. Council reiterates to him that it agrees with the coalition's commitment to ensuring sustainable finances so that we truly can protect...."*

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared LOST.

The original motion was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved. ^{3.}

Action Required

1. Write to Government expressing Council's concerns in respect of proposed changes to Permitted Development Rights (PDR). NT
2. If changes to PDR agreed, an Article 4 Direction be prepared to limit the size of household extension requiring planning consent. NT
3. Lead on and sign up to 'Enough is Enough' campaign to stop attack on York's public services. WB, LH

43. **QUESTIONS TO THE CABINET LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.3(A)**

Thirty five questions had been submitted to the Cabinet Leader and Cabinet Members under Standing Order 11.3(a). The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written answers to their questions, as set out below:

(i) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Runciman:

“Does the Council Leader agree with Councillor Semlyen, Chair of the Economic & City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee, that the recent floods prove it would be wrong to invest £3.6 million of public money in the Bonding Warehouse?”

Reply:

“The 2011 Labour manifesto committed us to expand the creative industries in York and we believe creating a hub for those industries is one way of fulfilling this objective. The plan will provide space for up to 250 small creative businesses and could include the creation of up to 500 jobs.

The Bonding Warehouse has always been a building under serious consideration, and is being considered along with other buildings in the city. Demand for such a hub is three times higher than the supply.

Whether the Bonding Warehouse scheme is chosen or not, some long-term use needs to be found for this important building. A great deal of flood protection work (tanking) has taken place to prepare the building for future use.”

(ii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Runciman:

“Firstly, I would like to thank those on the ground for their efforts in tackling the recent floods. However, after complaints from members of the public and his own public criticism, will the Council Leader support a full scrutiny review to analyse the response to the floods from City of York Council, Yorkshire Water, the Environment Agency and other relevant organisations?”

Reply:

“I saw for myself the rapid response of City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council, the Environment Agency, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Ambulance services, Yorkshire Water and the Health Protection Agency. I went to Silver Command to thank the staff for their

work. My criticism was not of the response but diminishing capital for the Environment Agency to use in securing much needed flood defences. I will soon be meeting with the Environment Agency regarding my concerns.

I would personally welcome any scrutiny review that considers ways in which the council and other agencies can improve the way they do things. The implication that the joint response was in some way deficient is unfair to the many workers across all organisations, whether back office or on the ground, who did their utmost to ensure residents' homes were not flooded in what was one of the worst floods York has seen for decades."

(iii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Reid:

"Could the Council Leader provide an update on the future of the Beckfield Lane site?"

Reply:

"The site has been earmarked for housing since March 1999 when it transferred in ownership to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This use was also stated in the budget papers that went before Council in February."

(iv) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services from Cllr Doughty:

"In the Adult Social Services Finance Report presented to the Health, Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12th September, it detailed a projected Council overspend in excess of £2.6M for the directorate in the current fiscal year. This report detailed where some of the overspend has taken place or is forecast. It indicated that some "mitigating actions have also been identified to help compensate for some of these pressures" and listed some very generalised areas without giving detail.

Can the Cabinet Member please expand on this to give Council a clearer indication as to how the £2.6M overspend will be tackled and which specific areas, if any will be reviewed?"

Reply:

"The financial pressures arising in the whole Health and Social Care system are of significant concern and even at this stage we must locate these budget pressures in that wider context.

These pressures do not result from non-delivery against key elements of the 12/14 budget strategy but are a complex combination of increased demand arising from changing demographics and the increasing longevity of those with complex needs - the growing numbers of older people in York who have increasing complex needs and residents with Learning Disabilities living longer are impacting on our social care budget. The final Census demographic trends indicate that there has been an increase of over 30% in the number of over 85s between 2001 and 2011 and census data projections indicate a further 9% increase by 2015 and 21% by 2020. There will also be a 35% increase in over 90s by 2020.

What is needed is for Government to make a decision on the future funding of care.

Despite the investment made in Adult Services as part of the 2012/13 budget the combination of historic levels of funding and the almost unique circumstances facing the York & North Yorks PCT all contribute to the scale of the challenge faced. The on thing that Government could do is to ensure that the Clinical Commissioning Groups do not start their existence with a deficit budget. For the Government to allow this to happen will only put further pressures on the Council.

Officers within the Directorate are maintaining strict expenditure control measures and exploring the potential to bring forward implementation of budget savings.”

(v) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services from Cllr Doughty:

“The Adult Social Services Finance Report referred to in my previous question also indicated that the directorate is assessing which 2013/2014 savings proposals can be brought forward. Can the Cabinet Member indicate what these might be at this stage. If not, what timescale can we expect to hear about them?”

Reply:

“I would refer Cllr Doughty to my response to his earlier question (iv). Measures to mitigate the financial pressures being experienced will be publically described as part of the report to Cabinet at the Second Monitor of this years budget.

What Cllr Doughty needs to understand, which he and other opposition Councils do not, is that we are talking about people and their needs are not always predictable.”

(vi) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services from Cllr Barton:

“Excluding the efforts of the various housing associations, can the cabinet member say how many affordable homes have been completed as a result of developer contributions during the period the Labour Administration has been in control?”

Reply:

“I would refer Cllr Barton to the table below which clearly shows the delivery of Affordable Homes which are much needed by York residents. I would also refer him to the fact that the Housing Waiting List

	Social rent completions	Low cost home ownership completions	Intermediate rent completions	Total affordable completions	Of which ... Affordable completions on S106 sites	Total housing completions (including affordable)
2007/08	18	33	0	51	19	523
2008/09	116	35	0	151	52	451
2009/10	92	60	0	152	25	507
2010/11	153	55	74	282	87	514
2011/12	77	44	30	151	50	321

rose again between July and September by 679 to 4651 – these are people who cannot afford to buy or rent in the private rented sector in York. This number is expected to increase due to the Government cuts to Housing Benefit, which many working residents receive.

Not included in the table are the 48 planning gain affordable homes secured on the Discus bungalow redevelopments. Although they are planning gain, many have been let at intermediate levels under a rent-to-buy scheme by Tees Valley and they have attracted HCA grant for this. It’s actually an excellent example of responding to the market downturn which has resulted from people not being able to afford to obtain a mortgage due to the difficult lending criteria’s and doing so meant that the homes did not stand empty.”

Note: details of affordable housing completions are on the council's website at:

http://www.york.gov.uk/housing/Affordable_housing/completions/

(vii) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services from Cllr Aspden:

“Could the Cabinet Member update Council on what is happening to the estimated 184 residents in the ‘moderate’ care bracket recently cut by Labour?”

Reply:

“Councillor Aspden needs to better understand the complexities of the growing care needs of York residents in relation to the damaging cuts that his Coalition Government have places on this Council. The cuts are a result of reduced Government funding and the City of York Council has to make the difficult decisions that Government will not to ensure as many people as possible receive support

Officers have undertaken a review of everyone’s records to ensure that they have the most up to date assessment of eligibility criteria for those identified at Moderate level during the consultation. Around 50 people’s needs level had changed since the Spring.

Officers have written to those who are still listed as being at Moderate level, who will need a review of their needs and have begun to undertake those reviews.

They will be using information from the reviews to develop the investment plan, and have invited user led groups and partners to help with the development of this plan.”

(viii) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services from Cllr Reid:

“What has the uptake been for council tenants installing Solar PV (photovoltaic) panels and what impact will this have on national grid capacity?”

Reply:

“As at 5th October 12, 431 properties had a Solar PV system fitted which each generate between 3.2 & 3.8KWph. There were no restrictions on capacity input to the National Grid other than the local loops which are related to the original electrical dwelling designs which

has put a restriction on some streets – this meant that some residents who may have wished to have panels were not able to

It is unfortunate that more were not able to be fitted but as Cllr Reid should be aware the debacle of the Feed in Tariff cut of date led to Councils across the country losing 6 months of installation time and only 2 months to do so in. The Governments actions thus resulted in the loss of around 600 roofs from the scheme.”

(ix) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability from Cllr D’Agorne:

“Can the Cabinet Member report what reviews are taking place following the combined travel disruption caused by flooding and gas works around the city?”

Reply:

“I can advise that I have asked officers to undertake a separate review into the impact of flooding on the transport network, with a view to taking on board the lessons learnt and where possible proactively source additional funds to help address these issues as far as we realistically can for the future. However planning gas related road works to avoid flood events I suspect is beyond even my capabilities!”

(x) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability from Cllr D’Agorne:

“Will there be a review of the arrangements with utility companies to prevent work being allowed simultaneously on several key roads at the same time (Tadcaster Rd, Sim Balk Lane, Bishopthorpe Rd, Cemetery Rd)?”

Reply:

“Discussions always take place for major works on key routes and are co-ordinated to minimise the disruption to the travelling public. The Tadcaster Road and Bishopthorpe Road works were not planned to coincide.

The work on Tadcaster Road was supposed to be in the verge only, but National Gas Network’s (NGN) poor records and previous damage to the existing mains meant that the work over ran. However the works were actually completed before the works on Bishopthorpe Road started last Monday.

NGN have consequentially been fined £7,500 overrun charges for Tadcaster Rd and £2,500 for Sim Balk Lane.”

(xi) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability from Cllr Barton:

“Bearing in mind that yet another LDF Working Group meeting (1st October) has been cancelled, when will the Conservative motion from the Council Meeting of 12th July 2012 and referred to this group be debated and a recommendation brought to full council?”

Reply:

“As Councillor Barton should be aware of by now, dates in the Council diary for LDF working group meetings are only provisional as for Licensing/Gambling Hearings, and Scrutiny call ins., This helps to ensure there is a space should there be business to deal with, and avoiding the difficulty of fixing a mutually convenient date when there is business.

A paper considering the Council’s planning policy approach to affordable housing is due to be taken to the Local Plan Working Group on 5th November and Cabinet on 4th December.

This decision at Cabinet will effectively set the Council’s interim position in advance of the emerging Local Plan.”

(xii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability from Cllr Reid:

“How much has been spent on the '20’s Plenty’ Campaign and does this include the cost of all marketing and advertising?”

Reply:

“Nothing. “20s Plenty” is a National Campaigning organisation and we do not fund it.”

(xiii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability from Cllr Ayre:

“The budget for 2011/12 included £158,000 for a statutory bus partnership and a further £100,000 has been allocated in 2012/13. Does the Cabinet Member think it is acceptable that 5 months after raising the question, I am yet to receive a detailed breakdown of how this money is being spent? Could the Cabinet Member now provide a

detailed breakdown of what this £258,000 has been spent on and what benefits have come from this?"

Reply:

"Funding was identified to develop a bus Quality Contract scheme but also to tackle air quality issues as I have previously told you. Not least as a result of the work we commissioned in these areas, the Council was successful in securing nearly £3m of Better Bus Area Funding (BBAF) from government in March 2012, and £51k Air Quality related funding from DeFRA for York.

The projects and schemes forming the BBAF are to be delivered in partnership with York's bus operators. These have enabled the Council to progress a number of improvements to York's public transport system which were previously not possible, but this has impacted on the QBC work, as will the recent Government announcements on Better Bus requirements..

Notwithstanding this, the additional Bus Quality Contract & Air Quality funding has thus far been spent on:

- *Low Emission Zone Feasibility Study £11.7k*
- *The commissioning of a Bus Improvement Study (to be reported in the coming weeks) - £32k*
- *The commissioning of a freight Improvement & emission Study (to be reported by the end of the year) - £30k*

And shortly to

- *Review and re-launch York's Quality Bus Partnership - £30k*
- *Undertake a comprehensive review of York's local bus network - £20k*

We will also be undertaking work to look at the appropriate pricing levels for the proposed All York smart tickets."

(xiv) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability from Cllr Reid:

"While recognising the excellent work of those on the ground tackling the floods, there were complaints that there were no sandbags available in the Skeldergate area and people were being left to fend for themselves. Could the Cabinet Member confirm that there are 40,000 empty sacks in the depot with sufficient sand to fill and these were properly distributed during the floods?"

Reply:

“The emergency response is part of my colleague Dafydd Williams portfolio, not mine. However, I am advised that Silver Command received only a couple of calls regarding Skeldergate. These were from tenants of commercial properties managed by their own property management companies, with the exception of one I made myself in regard to a local resident. The commercial property tenants were advised that their initial request for assistance needed to be to that source, as most have their own resilience contracts.

Approximately 10% of the stock (4000 bags) were distributed throughout the city. These were delivered to, and placed in-situ at the pre designated properties as per the CYC flood plan. I am advised that there were and are sufficient resources and resilience to distribute them as river levels rise and the flood plan is enacted.

It would be helpful if Councillor Reid is aware of some particular issues in Skeldergate that she passes those on to officers so they can be addressed in the plan and any future flood event.”

(xv) To the Cabinet Member for Crime & Stronger Communities from Cllr Healey:

“Can the Cabinet Member please outline progress on the priorities identified from your administration’s Crime summit?”

Reply:

“Work to deliver on the priorities and commitments identified at the Crime Summit is progressing well. The Community Safety Plan has been updated and was signed off by Cabinet on 4th September. The 2012/13 update sets out the priorities from the Crime Summit against the four key priorities established through the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment. The document will also be central to our discussion with the PCC.

Crime in the city dropped by 10% during the first year of the Labour administration, and on the first 5 months of the current financial year we are forecasting a further reduction of around the same level.”

(xvi) To the Cabinet Member for Crime & Stronger Communities from Cllr Healey:

“How does the Cabinet Member envisage his role changing with the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire?”

Reply:

“The election of the PCC is changing the way the police are governed with a move away from the NYPA to an elected individual. My role as Cabinet Member for York is to engage with the police and the NYPA / PCC to ensure that policing within York is delivered in a way that is not only reactive where crimes occur but also proactive to reduce not only crime but the fear of crime.

The changes being introduced will no doubt change the dynamics, and as Cabinet Member I will sit on the Police and Crime Panel, whose role it is to hold the PCC to account, however the key principals of the role as set out will remain the same.

I will be an ambassador for York on matters related to crime and anti-social behaviour and key decision maker and budget holder for a number of key services in these areas.”

(xvii) To the Cabinet Member for Crime & Stronger Communities from Cllr Healey:

“Does York Consortium’s £13,405 management fee of the Community Fund represent good value for money?”

Reply:

“Yes.”

(xviii) To the Cabinet Member for Crime & Stronger Communities from Cllr Orrell:

“How many Community Ward Contracts have been fully agreed and signed-off?”

Reply:

“Eight. With a further 10 in progress.”

(xix) To the Cabinet Member for Crime & Stronger Communities from Cllr Ayre:

“After first raising concerns in August, I have yet to receive a satisfactory answer to questions on the York Travellers Trust loss of £13,291 CYC funding. Could the Cabinet Member now confirm if this funding is being removed or whether they are receiving funds from a different pot? If they have lost funding what plans are in place to support the Trust? And will the Trust be able to continue without this funding?”

Reply:

“The Council’s funding arrangements changed in October when Your Consortium took over management of new funding arrangements as set out above. I understand that the Travellers Trust did not submit a qualifying bid as they were not able to supply the necessary supporting information.

They have received some additional funding and Council officers are working with the trust on their longer term future.”

(xx) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism from Cllr Richardson:

“Is the Cabinet Member going to resign as chair of the Equality Advisory Group given her comments made regarding Cllr. Jeffries and if not will she be apologising to this Group which is tasked with upholding equality in this city?”

Reply:

“No I am not, as there is no valid reason to do so.

The remark to which I think you are referring had nothing to do with Equalities or my role on EAG.

Your statement that EAG is tasked with upholding equality betrays your lack of understanding of the equalities agenda as we are all, as councillors, jointly and "equally" charged with upholding equalities in this city, not just EAG.”

(xxi) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Ayre:

“An update sent to staff confirms that a project board has been convened to prepare a detailed ‘social enterprise’ model to transfer ownership of libraries from the Council. The recently launched library consultation does not ask residents for their views on this. Therefore, given that the consultation ignores the most important question, would the Cabinet Member consider withdrawing it and starting a proper full and frank discussion about the future ownership of libraries?”

Reply:

“No, I will not be withdrawing it and the following may help you to understand why.

First of all, I am very proud that this Council under the current administration signed up to be a “Co-operative Council”. Officers across the Council have been working to draw out the benefits of social enterprises for delivering Council services.

In my portfolio officers have been working together to look at all the options for the Library Service, aiming to identify arrangements that have the best potential to build on the success that the service has enjoyed over the past 18 months.

Before we make any decisions, however, we need to refresh our understanding of what the people of York want from their service and the extent to which they are willing to get involved in helping to shape the service.

The consultation is completely open about the idea of the social enterprise model and makes it clear that this is under consideration. We are seeking people’s views through a wide variety of channels. It will enable us to make the most informed decision about how to continue to develop our services in line with residents’ wishes.

There are three questionnaires for different age groups: Under sevens, 8-17 year olds and adults. We want to ensure that everyone can take part.

The questionnaires are available online and in paper format from all libraries. We are also taking them to all our housebound users. We want the consultation to be organic and have set up a blog to report on the discussion taking place. We will be providing additional information as people ask for it. This will be in all libraries and online.

We are also engaging with all parish councils and ward councillors, and community groups and communities of identity directly. There will be displays in all libraries with an area in York Explore Cafe set aside for staff to be available for questions and discussions. This will be replicated in all libraries. Children’s Centres are emailing the consultation out to all their contacts and having the questionnaire in the centres for people to pick up. We will consult properly and will react positively to residents concerns for more information as and when that arises.

Across the country since April 2011 57 'static' libraries (buildings) have closed; 53 'mobile' libraries (based in vehicles) have closed and 46 libraries have been taken over by volunteers, social enterprises or parish councils.

The fact that the Lib Dem /Tory coalition government has caused the closure of so many libraries in the last 18 months across the length and breadth of the UK is of great concern to me and my Labour colleagues and is probably just the tip of the iceberg.

Against all the odds, this administration has opened a new reading cafe in the last year, adding to our library offer. It is a constant battle to protect this level of offer with huge funding reductions, year on year.

From Cllr. Ayre's question it strikes me that he has failed to grasp the enormity of the budget pressures this council is facing due to his Government's actions. I'm afraid the decisions we have to take are as much about do we or don't we continue to deliver a service in this climate. Considering alternative delivery models allows the council to say a service can and will be maintained, which I'm certain residents will value.

If the Member has discovered a new-found and immovable commitment to retaining services in-house, then he would be best making representations to his party in Government, who can influence the present situation quickly by ensuring York receives a fair funding settlement in future."

(xxii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Ayre:

"Does the Cabinet Member believe that the 'social enterprise' model is the only way to deliver future library services?"

Reply:

"No, of course it is not the only model for the delivery of a service.

It is certainly one that we would favour over profit making enterprises however, as they are more likely to strip value out of a service.

As I've said before, the options we are looking at involve how we can keep the service going, and a social enterprise model is amongst the best ways of achieving this.

The way the current coalition government is going it may well be the only hope for many council services in the future, not just libraries. This is not only my opinion, but it is also the opinion of anyone who has any experience and interest in local government and knowledge of the unrealistic funding cuts on local authorities, whatever their political colour as outlined in the 'Graph of Doom', issued by independent

advisors at the LGA and introduced at the LGA Urban Commission. You would then see that across the political spectrum, local authority councillors fear the worst.

Whether a social enterprise mode of delivery is the best direction for York is something that the Cabinet will take a view on, in the light of the public consultation, when officers bring a report forward in December.”

(xxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Ayre:

“Can the Cabinet Member guarantee that whatever the future ownership model of libraries, current staffing levels will be maintained?”

Reply:

“Clearly I cannot give that guarantee. Eric Pickles may sign local government up for a whole series of extra cuts beyond those we already know about, and without warning. A social enterprise model, should it be a route we agree to pursue, may determine that current staffing levels are unsustainable. There are a number of unknowns that in the current climate that it would be foolish to try and predict.

What I will say is that this administration is fully committed to maintaining an excellent and nationally recognised service, and the staffing necessary to support such a service.”

(xxiv) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Ayre:

“When will the responsibility for equalities and inclusion transfer to the Cabinet Member for Crime and Stronger Communities?”

“That responsibility will transfer across when the Cabinet Leader feels it is time to do so, and when he does, I will ask that you are one of the first people to be informed. But it will certainly be during the course of this administration.”

(xxv) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Ayre:

“Could the Cabinet Member give a detailed breakdown of the cost of ‘Illuminating York’ for the last 3 years and for this year?”

Reply:

“Yes. I’m pleased that this year we are moving into a whole new ball game in terms of our ambition for Illuminate. This has been made possible by our success in attracting in-kind support from other partners, notably £68k’s worth of equipment through our collaboration with Blackpool, and also through a larger than ever grant from the Arts Council.

This year’s event is a very special one as it falls in York800 year and we have been fortuitous in attracting a big star name to design and be associated with the event.

It is a much bigger and more ambitious project than ever before as befits our ambition and vision for what is possible.

The Arts Council has been very generous because it is such a different event and is truly bringing art to the people. Many other organisations and partners from across the city and further afield have generously contributed to the event as never before.

However, as wonderful as Illuminating York is, due to funding pressures caused by swingeing cuts to Local Authority budgets by the Coalition Government, we must work on making events such as this sustainable for future years if they are to survive.”

(xxvi)To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Cuthbertson:

“In light of the disastrous 2012-13 Performance and Finance Monitor 1 report which showed a projected overspend of £5.9 million, could the Cabinet Member outline how this situation will be rectified?”

Reply:

“Given huge reductions in funding from Government, these are incredibly difficult times that look set to continue for some years. However, ensuring we come in on budget each year is essential and we are giving this the highest priority.

Extensive work is ongoing in all areas of the Council with a view to bringing the Council’s spending in line with budget at the end of the year. All areas are being reviewed in terms of areas to reduce expenditure, and we will take whatever actions are necessary in order to ensure we stay within budget at year end, just as we did last year.”

(xxvii) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Cuthbertson:

“Will the Cabinet Member ensure that as soon as she receives information on the proposed growth items and savings for next year’s budget, these will be made available to opposition councillors?”

Reply:

“This information was included within the report to Council in February 2012, when a two year budget was set. The report in February set out the details of nearly £9m of planned savings for 2013/14 so this is all available in the public domain and has been since February. As have indications for planned growth.

Due to the uncertainty, and further funding reductions being imposed by Government, we will inevitably have to review the position, and consider some further details of the plans we set out in February 2012. This will all be reported to Council in the normal manner, including a report to Cabinet in February 2013.

Government delays in the grant settlement, now planned for mid December, and uncertainty over the funding of local government, and a delayed Autumn statement, do not help in terms of our long term planning.”

(xxviii) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Cuthbertson:

“What was the total revenue lost to this Council through the traffic wardens strike in July?”

Reply:

“During the week of the dispute a total of £131.6k income was collected from on-street and off-street car parking facilities. This was in line with projected income levels and actually £0.2k higher than the income received in the preceding week. There was income lost from not issuing Penalty Charge Notices during the week (budget £9-10k per week) but this was offset by not having to pay Civil Enforcement Officers as a result of the industrial action.”

(xxix) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Reid:

“In the light of other colleagues not having answered this question, I am now asking the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – In April the Council said it expected to “receive full payment within the next month”

for the outstanding rent still owed by UK Entertainment Online Ltd in regards to the Winter Wonderland in Exhibition Square last December. Could the Cabinet Member indicate whether this was achieved and if not what money is still owed to the Council?"

Reply:

"The council sent an invoice to the company on 26th April 2012. Unfortunately this invoice has not been paid and is currently going through our recovery process."

(xxx) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Firth:

"Will the Cabinet Member confirm that his colleague, Councillor Sonja Crisp, was wrong to say in March that "all the salt bins required across all wards will be refilled from the core budget?"

Reply:

"I will confirm no such thing. Cllr Crisp said that all required bins would be filled from the core budget, and all required bins are being filled from the core budget, with contingency funding available if the need arises."

(xxxii) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Aspden:

"The Cabinet Member recently said that he thinks the "Liberal Democrats could be more constructive" when it comes to reducing litter. Does he agree that the most constructive way to reduce litter would be for Labour to listen to the thousands of residents that have signed petitions and return the 349 litter and dog bins removed earlier this year?"

Reply:

"As Cllr. Aspden knows, I said "Liberal Democrats could be more constructive in encouraging the responsible disposal of litter and dog waste". I said this as I find various comments from Liberal Democrats indicating that they thought residents will invariably start littering if a bin is not immediately present rather insulting.

We do not want to be making these reductions, and if Cllr Aspden's Government was not making huge cuts to the Council, we would not have to. But they are, and we do. Liberal Democrats nationally talk of the "Big Society", so instead of cheap political point scoring that appears to justify littering when no bin is close at hand, maybe Liberal

Democrats locally should do the right thing and help us encourage residents to take their litter home with them.”

(xxxii) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Reid:

“What does the Cabinet Member intend to do about the salt bins that are out on the street but in need of repair?”

Reply:

“Councillors and members of the public can report bins in need of repair in the usual manner.

The Customer Centre can be reached by telephone on 01904 551 550, 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday, emailed at ycc@york.gov.uk, or online at www.york.gov.uk/doitonline.”

(xxxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Reid:

“Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the Snow Wardens scheme will continue?”

Reply:

“Yes.”

(xxxiv) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Reid:

“When will the public consultation on changes to the green bin service take place?”

Reply:

“Cabinet will consider a report on options for garden waste in December – there will be a consultation following consideration of this report.”

(xxxv) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Reid:

“Given the delays in consultation, the threat of a rise in landfill tax charge, and the public opposition, will the Cabinet Member formally rule out introducing charging for the green bin service?”

Reply:

“Given the cuts made by Cllr Reid’s party in Government, I can make no such statement. We have not made any decisions about this service as information is still coming forward and the public is still to have its say, and to rule any options out or in would pre-empt that public consultation, which we are not prepared to do.”

Cllr Keith Hyman
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.00 pm]