

---

Meeting	Executive
Date	15 July 2025
Present	Councillors Douglas (Chair), Kilbane (Vice-Chair), Kent, Lomas, Pavlovic, Ravilious, Steels-Walshaw and Webb
In attendance	Councillor Ayre

---

**110. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**111. Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

Councillor Steels-Walshaw advised that in relation to agenda item 7, 'Strengthening York's Support for Drug and Alcohol Recovery' that she had previously worked for Changing Lives. Having sought advice from the Council's Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer she was not considered to have an interest that would prevent her from participating in the discussion and vote.

**112. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved:** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Annexes A and B to agenda item 12 on the grounds that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). This information is classed as exempt under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as revised by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

### 113. Minutes

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 3 June 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 114. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been two registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Flick Williams spoke in relation to agenda items 11, 13 and 15. In relation to the station gateway project reference was made to comments by the Director of City Development at a recent meeting of Corporate Scrutiny Committee when it was reported that £2m-£3m overspend had been attributed to accessibility. A breakdown of the overspend had been requested. It was noted that an assurance had been provided from the relevant Executive Member that a breakdown of the figures was to be provided in due course. There remained some concerns in relation to paragraph six of the report that the scheme was to ensure improvements for pedestrians and changes from different modes of transport. This was not perceived to be the case for disabled pedestrians, disabled bus and taxi users and disabled drivers.

In relation to funding for city parks there was concern that there had been no reference in the recent report to Place Scrutiny Committee about disabled play spaces or disabled play equipment. It was acknowledged that this had been addressed positively by committee members and officers in attendance at the meeting and the report had been subsequently updated.

In relation to the report on the equity, diversity and inclusion strategy there was concern about the challenges in applying the approach across the city. It was felt that some protected characteristics were easier to understand than others and questioned how effective the strategy would prove to be.

Mark Green spoke in relation to agenda item 7 in his capacity as a member and Director of York in Recovery CIC, a lived experience recovery organisation. He particularly highlighted the importance of the long-awaited opening of York recovery hub and development of an action plan to achieve inclusive recovery city status.

## **115. Forward Plan**

Members received and noted details of items that were on the Forward Plan for the next two Executive meetings at the time of agenda publication.

## **116. Strengthening York's Support for Drug and Alcohol Recovery**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report on the next steps needed to strength York's community recovery model, in line with council plan aspirations.

The following information was appended to the report:

- IRC Vision Statement; and
- Equalities Impact Assessment.

Peter Roderick, Director of Public Health, attended the meeting and responded to members' questions and comments.

The key areas of discussion were:

- Members welcomed the positive shift in approach in relation to mental health. It was felt that previous approaches had focussed on time limited recovery and that it was important to recognise that recovery was dependent on individual experiences.
- The Executive Member responded by thanking officers for their positive contribution to this piece of work. She highlighted the importance of connection and community, providing a safe space for individuals to receive support, advice and friendship, particularly from others with lived experience. The recovery hub provided support for some of the most vulnerable individuals in society and helped remove the stigma associated with those in need of support.

### **Resolved (unanimously) –**

That Executive:

- a) Notes the decision taken by the Director of Public Health through officer delegation to award a contract to York in

Recovery CIC of the value £202,000 to lease and manage the Community Recovery Hub for a period of 3 years.

**Reason:** To enable the provision of a dedicated recovery space in the city

- b) Expresses its commitment to the Inclusive Recovery Cities approach and York's Inclusive Recovery City Vision statement, and delegates to the Director of Public Health and Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care to explore and monitor any areas for improvement within council business and formally sign the Inclusive Recovery City Vision Statement for York on behalf of the council.

**Reason:** To ensure the council leads by example in its approach to promoting recovery and making it easy for people with substance use disorders to seek help, for example in communications and people management policy and practices, and clear civic support is given to the Inclusive Recovery City approach in York.

## **117. 2024/25 Finance and Performance Outturn**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which provided a year end analysis of the overall finance and performance position.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Quarter four performance tables - city outcomes and council delivery indicators 2023-2027.

Debbie Mitchell, Director of Finance, presented the finance reports together (minute nos. 117, 118 and 119) and responded to members' questions and comments.

The main areas of discussion were:

- Officers were thanked for their hard work in ensuring a balanced budget. One member raised concern about the allocation of city-wide funding and pressures on adult social care, which were not considered sustainable.
- In response to a query about contingent liabilities the Director of Finance advised that whilst there were none in

relation to the outturn report there were some contingent liabilities in relation to areas such as equal pay and insurance claims. An assessment of these had been undertaken and reported in the statement of accounts, which was to be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on Wednesday, 30 July 2025.

- The Executive Member referred to the allocation of city-wide funding. It was reported that a cross-party group had been established to make decisions in line with council priorities. The group had been unable to reach agreement and not all funding had been spent. A different approach was to be applied in future.

### **Resolved (unanimously) –**

That Executive:

- a) Notes the finance and performance information.
- b) Notes the use of earmarked reserves in order to balance the Budget.
- c) Due to delays in delivering the first grant scheme in 2024/25 the balance of the City Wide Ward Fund (£50k) to be carried forward in 2025/26.
- d) Approves the use of £75k from the HRA underspend to be set aside to support the Neighbourhood Caretaker initiative.

**Reason:** To ensure expenditure is kept within the approved budget.

- e) Approves the extension to July 2028 for the letter of credit to York Theatre Royal as outlined in paragraphs 29 to 31 of the report.

**Reason:** To secure the financial viability of the theatre and the benefits it brings to the city.

### **118. Treasury Management annual report and review of Prudential Indicators for 2024/25**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which provided an update on Treasury Management activity and the outturn position for the 2024/25 financial year.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Prudential Indicators 2024/25 Outturn.

**Resolved (unanimously) –**

That Executive:

- a) Notes the 2024/25 performance of Treasury Management activity.
- b) Notes the Prudential Indicators outlined in Annex A of the report and compliance with all indicators.

**Reason:** To ensure the continued effective operation and performance of the Council's Treasury Management function and ensure that all Council treasury activity is prudent, affordable and sustainable and complies with policies set.

**119. Capital Programme Outturn 2024/25 and Revisions to the 2025/26 - 2029/30 Programme**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which set out the capital programme outturn position for 2024/25, which included any under/overspends and adjustments, along with an update to the future years programme.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2029/30.

**Resolved (unanimously) –**

That Executive:

- a) Notes the 2024/25 capital outturn position of £74.019m and approves the requests for re-profiling totalling £31.193m from the 2024/25 programme to future years.
- b) Notes the adjustments to schemes increasing expenditure in 2024/25 by a net £2.365m.
- c) Recommends to Full Council the restated 2025/26 to 2029/30 programme of £426.917m as summarised in Table 3 and detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

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

## **120. Major Projects (Station Gateway and York Outer Ring Road Business Case)**

The Director of City Development submitted a report which provided an update on the design, delivery and current progress of York Station Gateway and York Outer Ring Road, which included funding status.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA);
- Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA); and
- Detailed Package Details.

The following officers attended the meeting and responded to members' questions and comments:

- Garry Taylor, Director of City Development; and
- Patricia Salami, Head of Regeneration.

The main areas of discussion were:

- The Executive Member referred to comments made in relation to the item on public participation and at a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting. A response was to be provided by officers, particularly addressing technical aspects that had been raised. In relation to Station Gateway, this was considered an extremely important project which would deliver significant improvements. It was acknowledged that it had been a complex and challenging project. Governance arrangements had been strengthened with increased reporting to overcome potential barriers and ensure greater transparency.
- One member highlighted the important role of scrutiny in addressing key areas of concern and the need to establish a suitable timeframe for scrutiny to report back its concerns.
- In response to a query, confirmation of the funding arrangements was provided by the Director of City Development in relation to the York Outer Ring Road. It was advised that verbal confirmation had been received from the Department for Transport that the grant allocation as detailed in the report was £25m.

**Resolved (unanimously) –**

That Executive:

- a) Notes the status and funding position of the YSG and YORR programmes.
- b) Approves the continuation and completion of the YSG scheme – (YSG Option 3), including the allocation of an additional sum of £18.5million, to be funded through a reprioritisation of a combination of external grants and contributions from the rail industry.
- c) Approves the review and renegotiation of any existing grant funding arrangements in relation to the YSG and YORR schemes and delegates authority to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Director of Governance and the Director of Finance, to conduct that review and renegotiation and to take such steps as are necessary to enter into the resulting agreements.
- d) Approves £2.8m of CYC BSIP1 funding to be allocated to the YSG scheme and delegates authority to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Member, Director of Governance and the Director of Finance, to take such steps as are necessary to enter into any resulting agreements.
- e) Approves the procurement of contractors and specialist support services to enable timely completion of the YSG project and delegates authority to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Director of Governance and the Director of Finance, to procure such contractors and/or consultants and to take such steps as are necessary to award and enter into the resulting contracts (including any and all planning agreements and/or highways/land agreements as required; however for the sake of clarity this delegation is not for any requirements of either the Local Planning and/or Highways Authority). The delegations given in this recommendation must be exercised within the budgets approved within this report.
- f) Approves the proposed phased approach to delivering the YORR scheme – (YORR Option 3), prioritising infrastructure that unlocks housing and underpins the Local Plan objectives.
- g) Approves the procurement of contractors and specialist support services to enable timely delivery of future phases of the YORR programme and delegate authority to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Director of Governance and the



Director of Finance, to procure such contractors and/or consultants and to take such steps as are necessary to award and enter into the resulting contracts (including any and all planning agreements and/or highways / land agreements as required; however for the sake of clarity this delegation is not for any requirements of either the Local Planning and/or Highways Authority). The delegations given in this recommendation must be exercised within the budgets approved within this report.

- h) Approves the application for and acceptance of funding bids necessary to deliver the YSG and YORR schemes and delegate authority to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Member, Director of Governance and the Director of Finance, to apply for and accept such funding bids, and to take such steps as are necessary to enter into the resulting agreements and any subsequent modifications and/or extensions thereto.
- i) Notes the financial and delivery risks associated with both schemes and the mitigation measures proposed.
- j) Notes the lessons learned to date and instruct officers to carry out a formal lesson learned process post completion of YSG Phase 2 and YORR Phase 1.

### **Reasons:**

The agreement of the above recommendations will enable the following outcomes:

- a) The completion of key strategic transport and regeneration infrastructure projects that are central to the delivery of the Council Plan 2023–27, the Local Plan, and ‘Our City Centre’ vision.
- b) To secure the regeneration benefits of YSG, including improved active travel links, a transformed public realm, more efficient public transport to and from York Station.
- c) To unlock the delivery of over 3,557 homes (based on local plan allocations) and critical infrastructure through a phased YORR programme, while managing financial risk and maintaining delivery momentum.
- d) To ensure appropriate governance and delegation for the pursuit of funding opportunities that will enable both schemes to be delivered within an affordable and sustainable framework.

- e) To ensure that we have the correct skills and resources to deliver world class regeneration outcomes as befits a globally renowned city.

**121. Approval of Property Management Arrangements - Follow-Up Report**

The Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report, which following a review of the existing YorHome arrangements outlined the need to rectify a number of further arrangements as set out in the exempt annexes and the need to deliver workable and responsive decision-making processes in line with Veritau internal audit guidance and recommendations.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Full report containing exempt information; and
- Confidential information in relation to YorHome agreements requiring approval/rectification.

Pauline Stuchfield, Director of Housing and Communities presented the report and responded to members' questions and comments.

The Executive Member reported that an initial update in relation to property management arrangements had been provided to the Scrutiny Committee in April. It was subsequently agreed that further investigations were required and that there was to be a referral to Veritau and then consideration by Audit and Governance Committee. Key issues had since been reviewed and measures put in place to ensure processes were robust. The Executive Member also stressed the important role of YorHome in supporting vulnerable housing tenants.

**Resolved (unanimously) –**

That Executive:

- a) Ratifies the leases which were inadvertently entered into as outlined in the Exempt Annex B, Table 1 of the report.
- b) Approves the preparation of revised documentation in respect of the management and occupation of the

properties listed in the Exempt Annex B, Table 1 of the report.

- c) Delegates authority to the Director of Governance, in consultation with the Director of Housing and Communities, to take such steps as are necessary to agree and complete the resulting documents.
- d) Ratifies the leases entered into as outlined in the Exempt Annex B, Table 2 of the report.
- e) Delegates authority for the development of a robust but responsive future decision-making process for property management arrangements, up to the value of £500k, in relation to YorHome to the Director of Governance in consultation with the Director of Finance and Director of Housing and Communities, and the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities.

**Reason:** To ensure appropriate arrangements and documentation are in place in respect of Yorhome managed properties for the current occupiers and new tenants in future.

## **122. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy**

The Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report which sought Executive approval for both the final strategy and annual action plan.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Final Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy; and
- Equalities Impact Assessment.

The following officers attended the meeting and responded to members' questions and comments:

- Pauline Stuchfield, Director of Housing and Communities; and
- Laura Williams, Assistant Director of Customer, Communities and Inclusion.

The main areas of discussion were:

- An update on training and development. It was reported that disability equalities training was to be delivered for elected members and officers later in the year.

- Scrutiny Committee members were thanked for their feedback as part of an initial review of the draft strategy. The draft strategy had been subsequently updated. Members of the public were also thanked for their contribution as part of development of the strategy.
- The Executive Member highlighted the importance of establishing a framework to support the development and growth of this area.

### **Resolved (unanimously) –**

That Executive:

- a) Approves the final Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and associated Annual Action Plan (the ‘key deliverables’ for Year 1 of the Strategy).
- b) Approves that a progress report be produced every 12 months for the annual public meeting of the Human Rights and Equalities Board.

**Reason:** To demonstrate City of York Council’s core commitment to becoming a more equal, diverse and inclusive council.

(Councillor Webb left the meeting at 5.50pm, at the conclusion of this item.)

### **123. Update on Future Libraries Investment Programme**

The Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report in relation to the Future Libraries Investment Programme.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Success of Haxby and Wigginton Gateway Library and Clifton Library Learning Centre investments;
- Proposed enhancements to Acomb Library; and
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA).

The following officers attended the meeting and responded to members’ questions and comments:

- Pauline Stuchfield, Director of Housing and Communities; and
- Sarah Knott, Programme Manager.

The Executive Member thanked officers for their positive contribution in ensuring development of the investment programme and highlighted the benefits to local communities.

**Resolved (unanimously) –**

That Executive:

- a) Notes the progress on the FLIP Programme to date.
- b) Approves the Acomb library delivery budget of £390,000 including the external grants.
- c) Delegates to the Director of Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Director of Governance and Head of Procurement, the authority to take such steps as are necessary to enter into the grant agreement with Explore York.
- d) Approves the procurement of the works contracts to deliver the enhancements for Acomb Library and delegates authority to the Director of Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Director of Governance and Head of Procurement, to take such steps as are necessary to procure, award and enter into the resulting contracts.
- e) Notes the delivery timetable deadline for external grant bodies as 31 March 2026.

**Reason:** To ensure that the improvements outlined in the report and recommendations are delivered in a timely manner.

**124. Parks Capital Programme**

The Assistant Director of Finance submitted a report which sought approval from Executive to apply the criteria to a range of possible schemes and projects in the summer and to report back to the Executive in September where approval was to be sought on which should proceed.

The following officers attended the meeting and responded to members' questions and comments:

- Ian Hoult, Head of Environment; and
- Dave Meigh, Operations Manager.

The key points of discussion were:

- Confirmation that s106 funding was to be used to support and strengthen investment in relation to the parks capital programme.
- Clarification was sought about the methodology to be applied for weighting and scoring priority areas, particularly in ensuring a robust ranking system. In response, it was advised that a scoring system was to be agreed in consultation with the Executive Member.
- The Executive Member reported that the Scrutiny Committee had considered the draft report and the criteria to be applied had been endorsed. There were challenges in ensuring an entirely scientific approach. The highest priority was to be the most deprived and vulnerable areas.
- The Executive Member highlighted the importance of improving accessibility across parks, particularly for those groups who did not generally access park provision.

### **Resolved (unanimously) –**

That Executive:

- a) Approves the criteria detailed in Paragraphs 21 to 31 of the report.

**Reason:** To guide the investment of £500k in the city parks, play areas and open spaces

- b) Approves the weighting approach detailed in Paragraphs 32 to 35 of the report.

**Reason:** To prioritise investment on sites with high levels of IMD that have old play equipment and / or key infrastructure issues.

### **125. Urgent Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

(The meeting concluded at 6.20pm)

Councillor Douglas, Chair

(The meeting started at 4.30 pm and finished at 6.20 pm).