

## Notice of a public

### **Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects Meeting to be held in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods (for agenda item 4 Annual Report on Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefits Activities (2021/22))**

**To:** Councillor Ayre (Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects) and Craghill (Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods)

**Date:** Monday, 17 October 2022

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

## **AGENDA**

### **Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:**

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item\* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00 pm on Wednesday 19 October**.

\*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any items that are called in will be considered by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5:00pm on Thursday 13 October**.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

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

**2. Minutes**

(Pages 1 - 2)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 11 July 2022.

**3. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines are set as 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is **5:00pm on Thursday 13 October 2022**.

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

**Webcasting of Public Meetings**

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at [www.york.gov.uk/webcasts](http://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts).

During coronavirus, we made some changes to how we ran council meetings, including facilitating remote participation by public speakers. See our updates ([www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy](http://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy)) for more information on meetings and decisions

**4. Annual Report on Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefits Activities (2021/22)** (Pages 3 - 42)

This report provides the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods with the Financial Inclusion/Welfare Benefits outturn report 2021/22 and an update on the first quarter of 2022/23 including:

- The financial support available to residents dealing with the challenges of covid-19 during 21/22 and the cost of living impacts moving into 2022/23;
- An update on benefits statistics and performance administered by the council including the York Financial Assistance Scheme;
- Other financial inclusion (FI) activity during 2021/22 including delivery of Financial Inclusion grant schemes.

**5. Submission of funding bids to Levelling Up Fund in accordance with delegations from Executive Committee at item 5, 16.6.22** (Pages 43 - 52)

This report follows the Executive decision in June 2022 to submit 2 bids to the second round of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The report formally records the subsequent decision (of the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects, as delegated by the Executive), to submit the bids. The report also sets out the final bid compositions.

**6. Application for Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act 2011** (Pages 53 - 68)

This report details an application to list Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn, York as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), for consideration by the Council. The application has been received from Naburn Parish Council.

**7. York Shared Prosperity Fund** (Pages 69 - 102)

This report contains City of York Council's Investment Plan, which was developed in partnership with local stakeholders and as agreed by the York UKSPF Partnership Board and the Executive Member, for the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). CYC will be responsible for delivering York's UKSPF funds for the period 2022 to 2025. Further steps are now required to formally agree the Investment Plan and confirm arrangements for expenditure once Government has agreed the Investment Plan. This paper addresses those issues, together with an outline of expenditure in the current financial year.

**8. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Name: Angela Bielby

Telephone: (01904) 552599

Email: a.bielby@york.gov.uk

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

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

**This information can be provided in your own language.**

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

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

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects
Date	11 July 2022
Present	Councillor Ayre
In Attendance	Nick Collins (Head of Asset Management) Tim Bradley (Asset Manager)

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### **1. Declarations of Interest**

The Executive Member was asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests, not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that he might have had in respect of business on the agenda. He confirmed he had none.

### **2. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 9 May 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Executive Member.

### **3. Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

### **4. Application for Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act 2011**

The Executive Member considered a report detailing applications to list the following properties as Assets of Community Value (ACV), for consideration by the Council.

- a. Grey Horse Inn, Main Street, Elvington, York. An application has been received from Elvington Parish Council.
- b. Royal Oak Public House, 1 Main Street, Copmanthorpe, York. An application has been received from Copmanthorpe Parish Council.

The Asset Manager outlined each applications noting that there had been no objections to either application. The Executive Member welcomed the applications and;

**Resolved: That the renewal of the listing of the Grey Horse Inn, Elvington, York, and The Royal Oak PH, Copmanthorpe, York as Assets of Community Value (ACV) for the reasons outlined in the report be approved.**

**Reason: To ensure the Council meets its legislative obligations (pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012) and promotes community access to community facilities.**

Cllr Ayre, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.02 am].





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**Executive Member for Finance & Major  
Projects Decision Session**

**10 October 2022**

**Financial Inclusion/Welfare Benefits Update Report  
Summary**

1. This report provides the Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods with the Financial Inclusion/Welfare Benefits outturn report 2021/22 and an update on the first quarter of 2022/23 including:
  - The financial support available to residents dealing with the challenges of covid-19 during 21/22 and the cost of living impacts moving into 2022/23;
  - An update on benefits statistics and performance administered by the council including the York Financial Assistance Scheme;
  - Other financial inclusion (FI) activity during 2021/22 including delivery of Financial Inclusion grant schemes.

**Recommendations**

2. The Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects is asked to note the report and the support provided to residents who are financially vulnerable.

Reason: to ensure councillors, residents and stakeholder groups are aware of the ongoing financial inclusion activity across the city. The use of associated funding including Covid-19 and cost of living support and their impacts.

## Welfare Benefits Update

3. The council provides a broad range of welfare support to residents through the York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS), Council Tax Support (CTS) and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). The breadth of this support was increased during 2020 through to 2022 to help residents during the Covid-19 pandemic and more recently with the cost of living increases. The additional schemes and support are picked up in the following paragraphs.

### York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS)

4. The YFAS scheme was established in April 2013, following the transfer of responsibility (and initially funding) from central government. The former national scheme, delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), was part of the Social Fund. YFAS is now fully funded and locally administered by the council and can assist residents to stay or move into the community or with emergencies.
5. In 2021/22, 1,284 YFAS applications were received. This is over 400 less than 2020/21. In terms of context the Government introduced in 2020 support to households through covid-19 support grants and by November 2021 and into 2022/23 these moved to household support grants to help with the cost-of-living crisis. The implementation of these schemes reduced demand on YFAS a trend that is reversing as we move through 2022/23.
6. Full details of the spend and the trend in YFAS claims are set out in Annex A.
7. Table 1 below sets out all the welfare support provided across 2021/22 the isolation payments total is for the 2020/22 period:

Table 1 Total Welfare Spend

Isolation Payments 2020/22	3182	£ 1,591,000
COVID Support Grant 2021/22	2846	£ 390,023
Household Support Fund 2021/22	6905	£ 1,037,906
DHP2021-22	400	£ 231,377
YFAS 2021-22	990	£ 259,870
HB 2021-22	6300	£ 25,174,452
CTS 2021-22	9365	£ 7,850,006
CTS Hardship payments 2021-22	6000	£ 476,686
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35988</b>	<b>£ 37,011,320</b>

## Household Support Fund (HSF)

8. The Government announced on 30 September 2021 the Household Support Fund (HSF) for families in financial need was to be distributed by County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England effective 6 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. This replaced the Covid Support Grant as set out in Table 1 above and started to address the transition from covid-19 support to 'cost of living' support.
9. The Household Support Fund was introduced to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. It could also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs where appropriate. At least 50% of the total funding had to be spent on families with children.
10. City of York Council was allocated £1,037,906 to cover the period 6 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.
11. The HSF provided grants through two routes – by invitation based on selected eligibility criteria and a discretionary scheme for other residents. £20,000 of funding was also allocated to provide a fuel voucher scheme.
12. People who met the following eligibility criteria were invited by letter to apply for the grant scheme:
  - Families with dependent children under 18 who are currently receiving Council Tax Support;
  - People in receipt of Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support and Enhanced Personal Independence Payments (PIP).
13. The support was provided as two payments, one in early December 2021 and a second amount in February 2022. These payments were intended to help families with household bills. The payment was a standard amount based on the number of children in the family. Residents who did not meet the criteria but who were struggling to meet their bills could also apply through the discretionary element of the scheme. There was some residual funding from the overall scheme left at the end of March 2022 but not sufficient for a third payment. To support residents and avoid paying back to central government the money was spent on buying further fuel and food vouchers (£125k) to be spend across 2022/23.
14. The government announced on 23 March 2022 that further funding of £1,037,906 was to be provided for a new Household Support Fund

scheme for April to September 2022/23. Government guidance set out how Local Authorities must use the funding as set out below:

- At least one third of the total funding must be used to support households with children,
- At least one third of the total funding must be used to support pensioners,
- The remaining funding to other households genuinely in need of support.
- Payments must be to help in one of the eligible categories - Food, Energy & Water, Essentials linked to Energy & Water, Wider Essentials, and Exceptional Emergency Housing Costs.

15. The key points of the council's scheme are set out below:

- Two routes to apply for the new Household Support Fund - invitation and discretionary.
- The 6,700 eligible residents who met the qualifying criteria received an invitation.
- Approximately 1,300 did not respond to the invitation letter and will be issued a cheque at the end of September 22.
- £50k of the funding was allocated to create a CYC Food Voucher Scheme alongside the fuel voucher scheme.

### **Fuel & Food Voucher Scheme**

16. The York Fuel and Food Voucher scheme was set up using funding from both Government grant (HSF) and council budget £250k. The scheme provides food and fuel vouchers delivered through advice support workers both CYC and charity/voluntary sector. An important element of the scheme is that these are provided to York residents affected poverty and debt alongside information and advice on benefits and other longer-term support.

17. Fuel vouchers awards are allocated at standard award amounts of

- 1 x £28 for a single person household
- 1 x £49 for a two or more-person household

18. CYC Food Vouchers are provided for use at ASDA, Tesco or Morrisons Food vouchers awards are allocated at standard award amounts of

- 1 x £30 for a single person household
- 1 x £60 for a household of two to five people
- 1 x £100 for a household of six people or more

19. Approved vouchers applications are sent electronically directly to the resident by SMS text or email. Households can receive a maximum of 3 food vouchers and 3 fuel voucher awards from the scheme during 2022/23. Anyone needing further assistance over and above the 3 vouchers can apply for additional support via York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS) at <https://www.york.gov.uk/YFAS> or York Food Bank as appropriate. Payments are summarised in Annex B.
20. There are 16 support service partners in the scheme from within the council and the charity/voluntary sector. Currently, some 110 support workers are registered to process applications to award vouchers from:

Age UK York	Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust - Money Advisers
CAP (Christians Against Poverty debt advice)	Local Area Coordinators - CYC
Citizens Advice York	Older Citizens Advocacy York (OCAY)
Community Mental Health - Pathway to recovery	Peasholme Charity
Communities - CYC	Welfare Benefits Income Services - CYC
Community Links	York Energy Advice
Council Tax Benefits Advice Project – CYC	York Foodbank
Housing Management Officers - CYC	

### Isolation Grants

21. The Government provided funding (£500 per claimant) across the pandemic to support those on low income who would lose pay through self-isolating. These ended in February 2022 and full spend is set out in Table 1 at paragraph 7 above.

### Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

22. The council received £231k in government funding for DHPs (2021/22) to help with residents housing costs and has an additional CYC budget of £27k in reserve. Table 2 below shows the 21/22 spend and position at the end of quarter 1 2022/23.

Table 2 - Discretionary Housing Payment

	2021/22		Q1 2022/23	
Total DHP Fund available	£231,377	100%	£231,377	
Amount spent	£231,377	100%	£61,805	38%
Amount remaining	0		£160,661	

£27k contingency not included in budget

## Council Tax Support (CTS)

23. CTS awards amongst working age residents, after rising during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, has fallen to similar levels to those pre-Covid, as shown in Table 3 below. This reflects a reduction more widely in claims for means-tested benefits. However, CTS claims are still comparatively lower than Universal Credit (UC) claims and claims for pensioners has reduced again indicating that not all qualifying residents are making claims.

Table 3 – CTS Caseload

<b>Council Tax Support caseload</b>	<b>Working age</b>	<b>Pensioners</b>	<b>Total</b>
March 2020	4,682	4,034	8,716
September 2020	5,535	3,997	9,532
March 2021	5,512	3,887	9,399
March 2022	4,685	3,735	8,420
June 2022	4,578	3,698	8,276

24. The Government provided a further Hardship Fund as part of its Covid grant support in 21/22 and the council provided existing and new claimants of CTS with up to £75 towards their bill during year. The total support provided to residents through this scheme was £477k as set out at Table 1 of this paper.

## Council Tax £150 Energy Rebate

25. In March 22 the Government announced a new scheme to support residents with the increased cost of living crisis through the Council Tax Energy Rebate of £150 per eligible property.
26. All residents who were liable for council tax at a property in council tax bands A to D, and who are responsible for payment of the energy bills qualified for the rebate.
27. The core scheme will close at the end of September and the discretionary element at the end of November. No resident will miss out and those who have not claimed will have a credit awarded to their council tax account the current position is set out in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Summary Fuel Rebate Scheme Payments

<b><u>Overall Summary</u></b>	<b>No</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Total Eligible Customers</b>	<b>74,421</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>11,163,150</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Customers Paid</b>	<b>-64,673</b>	<b>-£</b>	<b>9,700,950</b>	<b>-87%</b>
Paid using DD* information	-50,225	-£	7,533,750	-78%
Paid via Application -Cash	-9,884	-£	1,482,600	-15%
Paid via application - Credit	-4,564	-£	684,600	-7%
<b>Total Customers Left to Pay</b>	<b>9,748</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,462,200</b>	<b>13%</b>

\*Direct Debit

### **Universal Credit (UC)**

28. Support with claiming Universal Credit remains with CAY. The overall UC picture for York as of June 2022 is set out at Annex C of this paper and remains high compared to the pre-pandemic position. Whilst the most recent figures show unemployment in the city at 1.8% the number of residents on UC has risen to £11.2k. This is a clear indication of the low wage economy in some sectors which is not taking residents away from reliance on welfare benefits.

### **Information, sign posting and communications**

29. It has become even more important that residents know about what support is available if they are struggling financially and where to get advice and assistance to secure/ apply for benefits, grant and other financial support. The pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis have seen the introduction of a range of support, often time limited, as well as changes to ongoing benefits.
30. The CYC and Live Well York (LWY) website have been key tools in providing welfare support information to keep people up to date with the ongoing changes and differing criteria. Regular updates to staff have been provide through emails, briefing sessions and network meetings.
31. The 'Guide to money and benefits advice in York' booklet has been circulated through all Explore libraries, community venues and advice and support services. Information is also included regularly in Our City and on social media through CYC, LWY and third sector partners.
32. In Oct/Nov 21 the council worked with partners on York Challenge Poverty Talk Money Month. This was a series of events and a media campaign to support local people to:

- feel confident about managing their money
  - know where to get information and advice
  - know what financial support is available and how to get it
  - be confident about getting the best deal on their bills, such as gas, electricity and internet
  - know where to get debt advice to help them deal with problem debts
  - know where they can go for help.
33. Information pages were set up on [www.livewellyork.com/talkmoney](http://www.livewellyork.com/talkmoney) and local activities and events were added to the online calendar.
34. Promoted advice and support is available at community hubs which have re-opened following the pandemic restrictions, both online and locally. Third sector advice partners promoted their sessions on the LWY calendar as part of the month of action.
35. The council arranged three online events plus the City of York Council Facebook Q&A events. The CYC Facebook event reached 215 people with a further 126 engaging at some point.
36. There were 30 Facebook posts promoting the month, as well as 8 twitter posts that were retweeted/liked 70 times.
37. The <https://www.livewellyork.co.uk/talkmoney> was viewed over 1,000 times in the first two weeks. We have adapted the information on the page so this can continue as an ongoing resource. It continues to be the most visited page on their website with over 2,000 visits in June 2020.
38. The council has run three further Talk Money Weeks during 2022 on social media and promoted through partners in February, April and June in the run up to the school holidays: highlighting the support available in the community and sign posting to support through <https://www.livewellyork.co.uk/talkmoney>.
39. A further York Talk Money month 2022 is being planned from 10 October – 11 November 2022.
40. The council have work with the Food Aid Network to produce the 'Worrying About Money' guide which will be available in libraries and community venues around the city.

### **Work of Welfare Benefits Officers**

41. The Income Services Team through its Benefits and Contributions Advisers officers have supported 630 residents providing advice and



support which has generated welfare benefit gains of £3.054m in 2021/22.

## Housing Update

42. Rent arrears in 2021/22 (April 4 2021 to April 3 2022) increased for a range of reasons including:
  - the ongoing cumulative impact of covid 19 on people's finances, employment and ability to access furlough payments.
  - local and national restrictions on the approach to arrears collection and enforcement actions (only 'soft' contacts were made during the restricted periods).
  - implementation of a new Housing wide IT system including an implementation period, staff training and rectification of post go-live system problems.
  - staff recruitment and retention issues.
  - the ongoing impact of welfare reform and the roll out of Universal Credit including a backlog of annual rent increase notifications (now cleared).
  - the emerging impact of the cost of living crisis.
43. Arrears recovery action had been suspended for such a long period that we were effectively starting from scratch with many cases from an enforcement escalation perspective. This did not apply where existing court orders were in place. All contacts focused on providing advice, making reasonable repayment agreements, accessing benefits and grants as well as other appropriate support where needed. Arrears at March 2021 were £1,130,421 and increased further throughout the following year.
44. On 4 April 2021 arrears were £1,149,964. From April 2021 to March 2022 council tenant rent arrears increased further to £1,305,398, an overall increase by 13.52%. Currently rent arrears stand at £1,661,758 as of July 2022. Monthly increases in arrears have, as predicted, increased due to the reasons outlined above. We are expecting a backlog of UC payments to come through to rent accounts following the elimination of the backlog of year end rent notifications.
45. The Housing Management Team have continued to work in partnership with other council departments and partners across the city to help people living in our homes access the support they need. We took part in the implementation of the Breathing Space system providing some relief from formal action where appropriate. We have worked closely with DWP to obtain Alternative Payment Arrangements, 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Payments

especially where arrangements restrict the ability of people to cover basic costs.

46. Housing Officers have supported tenant and their families / communities through continually difficult times and will continue to do so through what is to be increasingly difficult times to come. They have helped tenants with Discretionary Housing Payments, YFAS applications, Food and Fuel Vouchers, alternative housing if they were either under occupying or over occupying and need to move to assist with their financial situation. Repayment arrangements have been re-negotiated where they had become unaffordable, and we have promoted the use of Direct Debit to help people budget.
47. DWP continue to take their payments direct from Universal Credit before any other debts and take up to 20% of their total UC payment leaving tenants struggling to pay their basic rent and bills.
48. It is felt by the Housing teams that our customers are presenting with increasing vulnerabilities and complex needs. UC can be complicated for people to navigate and relies mainly on people managing their own claims. Access to digital systems and limited digital skills is an ongoing issue which the teams help with and signpost to. There is evidence that some are struggling to continue mobile data packages which again limit's ability to access claim information, journals and updates.
49. A small fund from the Housing Revenue Account was set up to assist people who live in our homes with basic rental payments due to specifically Covid 19 issues called the Housing Hardship Fund (help with rent arrears only) and this became more flexible throughout 2021 to 2022 as issues increased. The current balance rolled over from 2021/22 to 2022/23 was £14,000 and now stands at £6,000 for the remaining months. We will look to replenish this as part of the ongoing budget process. Part of this fund has been administered by the Local Area Coordinators where early help is needed.
50. The Housing Management Team will be piloting new roles from within existing resources to better support people moving into council homes and when people get into difficulties during the rest of their tenancy. We will report on the impact in next year's report.

### **Digital Inclusion**

51. The cost-of-living crisis has continued to highlight the importance of digital inclusion and the inequalities face by those without access. For those residents without IT equipment and/or internet access the following is now more difficult:

- making new or managing benefits claims for vital support.
  - accessing online discounts for essential household costs, fuel, insurance, phones, for example.
  - shopping online to avoid contact and adhere to social distancing
  - connecting with family and friends.
  - accessing education, training and employment.
  - accessing other help and support from organisations who have moved services online.
  - children are unable to undertake schoolwork and other learning.
52. The successful York IT Reuse Scheme was developed as a result of the joint work of organisations and services in the city working across a wide spectrum of areas, all identifying a lack of digital access as a barrier to people with complex needs during the pandemic.
53. The scheme is funded by the Multiple Complex Needs (MCN) Build Back Better Fund (BBBF) run by the Two Ridings Community Foundation. The scheme is operated through the York Community Furniture Store (CFS).
54. To help deliver the scheme CFS have a team of volunteers to:
- i. Collect and receive: Develop facilities and a campaign to collect IT equipment, particularly laptops and tablets donated by local people and through partnerships with businesses, schools, universities and other organisations.
  - ii. Refurbishment: Inspect and classify all donations before preparing them for reuse. All data will be eradicated before operating systems and core apps are reinstalled. Devices will be setup to meet the needs of particular user groups. This process will provide volunteering opportunities for people to learn new skills.
  - iii. Reuse: Refurbished devices distributed to deliver social benefit. Partners in the scheme will work collaboratively to identify those who would most benefit from the scheme.
55. The work of Explore York (library and archives service) in leading digital inclusion in partnership (100% Digital York) with the council, is key in taking this work forward. The initial output from that work includes developing the network of key partners and supporting Digital Champions that are already operating in communities and organisations across the city. A joint action plan has been developed to help identify and tackle areas of digital and social exclusion.
56. With CYC funding to create a part time Digital York Partnership Network Co-ordinator the partnership is now able to ensure all the work that is happening across the York area to support digital inclusion is captured and gaps identified. 100% Digital Leeds was recently invited to share

their success and this re-energised the York partnership for what could be achieved.

### **Early support pilots**

#### Early Support Fund

57. The Early Support Fund is a small fund provided to Local Area Coordinators (LACs) to support residents who we know face additional barriers, such as people with long term health needs, families, older people and single people in private rented accommodation. A key focus is on homelessness and debt prevention, including those in rent and council tax arrears.
58. The Early Support Fund can provide a flexible grant to families identified as needing assistance to improve their overall financial position and reduce inequalities created by or exacerbated by the negative effects of the Covid pandemic.
59. The fund is being run jointly across Local Area Coordinators, Housing and Communities. A new online application process with the web will go live in September 2022 and will enable other non-CYC partners but not individual residents to be able to apply directly. So far in 22/23 51 grant awards have been made totalling £12,150.
60. This grant is one small part of an overall action plan to secure the longer-term financial security, social inclusion and wellbeing of residents. In this way it will contribute to creating resilient citizens and communities. Early Support Grants are not emergency grants. Where there is an emergency situation, applications should be made to York Financial Assistance Scheme.

### **Council Tax Debt Project**

61. This is a member approved pilot that supports residents with debt issues at the point of contact through being in Council Tax debt. A dedicated welfare benefits adviser took up post in April 2022 and has completed their training and is now accepting referrals from partner services in CYC and across the city.
62. The adviser will support people who are finding it difficult to pay Council Tax and are at risk of arrears and court action, by looking at their whole situation, ensuring people know about and are claiming all support available, maximise their income and reduce outgoings to help them manage their money and finances, including Council Tax payments, in a sustainable way going forward.

63. The project is focusing on people who are struggling to meet their payments or have received a first reminder, to try to ensure people are accessing all support available and to try to prevent further recovery action.
64. The pilot will test and develop a model of working between advisers and Council Tax, Housing and Benefits services which takes a holistic approach of residents' situations and the support that is available.
65. Independent evaluation of the project has been funded through Deciding Together funding programme via Two Ridings Community Foundation. We are working with Healthwatch and the MCN Lived Experience Project to explore the impact of current models and test new ways of working through their current Peer Research project.
66. Independent evaluation will also be carried out by Centre for Housing Policy, alongside the project team to map the learning and outcomes of the work; both in terms of specific developments for the Council Tax recovery process and the impact on residents; as well as monitoring and documenting any learning, good practice, difficulties and challenges from this explorative way of working that can be built on in future.

**Other activities funded by Financial Inclusion budgets.**

67. This section of the report covers other activities funded by the council that have supported financial inclusion during 2021/22 as well as highlighting activity in place for the current year.
68. The Financial Inclusion Steering Group (FISG) is responsible for overseeing the delivery of financial inclusion work and has strategic oversight of the council's DHP, YFAS and CTS schemes. Membership continues to expand and now includes York Food Bank joining the York Food Justice Alliance, the Welfare Benefits Unit, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York CVS, York Explore, Citizens Advice York, Community First Credit Union and a number of CYC directorate representatives. There is a standing invitation to a representative of the Parish Councils. The Executive Members for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods, for Finance & Major Projects and for Adult Social Care & Public Health are members of the group.
69. The group's purpose is:  
    'To ensure that local people have the knowledge of and access to appropriate services, allowing them to make more informed choices to achieve and maintain financial stability'.

70. The group in recent meetings has been undertaking an impact and needs analysis to inform a short-term Financial Inclusion Strategy update pending the work of the newly formed Poverty Truth Commission in York. The results of this work will be presented to councillors for review and approval in the coming months.
71. The group regularly monitors grants awarded to local organisations to deliver projects that meet the group's objectives. For 2022/23 the budget available is £157,726 made up of £150,000 base budget and an underspend of £7,726 from 2021/22.

### Outcomes of projects funded in 2021/22

72. Seven projects were funded for 2021/22. Despite the continuing challenges and constraints of the pandemic all providers were able to maintain the delivery of high levels of support to residents by developing alternative and flexible ways of working with residents. All partners responded swiftly and positively to these challenges by working collaboratively and innovatively to continue to support vulnerable residents in the city. Table 5 below is a high-level summary of what the projects set out to deliver.

Table 5 Financial Inclusion projects funded for 2021/22

Organisation	Project title	Brief Summary	Amount
Older Citizens Advocacy York (OCAY)	Benefits Advocacy	To provide advocacy support to help with applications, assessments and appeals	£5,818
Citizens' Advice York	Financial Inclusion at GP surgeries	Continue to develop co-ordinated advice work located in GP practices.	£13,229
Citizens' Advice York	Financial Inclusion in the Traveller Community	Working with the Travellers Trust to deliver and co-ordinate advice services to the Gypsy & Traveller community.	£5,385
Peasholme Charity	My Money, My Life	Continue delivery of its financial capability pathway service	£25,057
Welfare Benefits Unit	Advice Extra	Extend reach of services to underpin first tier advisors in responding to more complex cases.	£13,900
Experience Counts	50+ Project	Deliver four employment related programmes to residents aged 50+	£19,262
Changing Lives	Financial & Social Inclusion Worker	Support vulnerable and hard to reach residents to gain financial independence.	£30,625

Outcomes for projects funded for 2021/22

73. Around 600 residents were directly supported by these projects. Over 1,500 unique benefit issues were handled with a sizeable proportion from those who found themselves reliant on welfare benefits as a result of the economic impacts of Covid-19 particularly those having to claim UC for the first time. Difficulties with the removal of the £20 UC uplift, queries on furlough payments, needing help with making Personal Independence Payments claims and debt all featured strongly in the type of support needed. In addition, as a direct result of some of the project interventions 15 people found employment and 24 took up training or employment opportunities. The nature and extent of the support provided to individual residents varies from project to project (for example, some require a high intensity prolonged one to one package of help whilst others are of a more limited transactional nature) and is reflected in the outcomes reported. Straight comparisons between projects therefore are not always appropriate.

### Funding of projects for 2022/23

74. The bidding round for funding projects for 2022/23 saw eleven bids from nine organisations for grants totalling over £220k, exceeding the £157,726 available. Six of the bids sought to build on projects already funded in 2021/22 and four were from organisations that had not previously bid. Grants totalling £157,726 to fund nine projects for 2022/23 were approved (two were partially funded). All projects will last for twelve months. The table below summarises the projects funded.

Table 6 - Financial Inclusion projects funded for 2022/23

Organisation	Project title	Brief Summary	Amount
Blueberry Academy	Blueberry 50/50 On Line Marketplace	Run an online market for young people with learning difficulties to manage online sales for recycled/reuse items generating income and acquiring skills from their enterprise activities.	£9,000
Experience Counts	50+ Project	Deliver four employment related programmes to residents aged 50+.	£19,320
Changing Lives	Financial & Social Inclusion Worker	Support vulnerable and hard to reach residents to gain financial independence.	£19,479*
Refugee Action York (RAY)	Advice & Support – Equal Access for All	In collaboration with CAY provide support to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to access practical support, information and guidance relieve hardship, reduce isolation, advance education and improve integration.	£13,480

Peasholme Charity	My Money, My Life	Continue delivery of its financial capability pathway service	£27,543
Citizens' Advice York	Financial Inclusion in the Traveller Community	Continue project working with the Travellers Trust to deliver and co-ordinate advice services to the Gypsy & Traveller Community.	£5,385
Age UK (York)	Reaching Out to Older People in their Community	Enhance the financial stability of older people (50+) living on a low income, promoting improved health and wellbeing, reducing reliance on other services, and to help retain their independence.	£18,692
IT Reuse	IT Reuse project	See paragraphs 43 – 45 above for more information about this scheme.	£26,864*
Welfare Benefits Unit	Advice Extra	Extend reach of services to underpin first tier advisors in responding to more complex cases.	£17,299

\*partially funded

## Community Hubs

75. In October 2020 a report entitled *Community Hubs – Post Covid Recovery* was considered by the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities to assess how CYC could best support York's recovery from the impact of the pandemic. A key strand of this focused on signposting a clear transition from an emergency response to a longer term community approach. Whilst residents who have Covid-19 or are self-isolating will still need support, the council wanted to highlight to residents that they were looking at longer term solutions - both for those directly affected by the virus and for those affected by the longer term impacts (and now cost of living impacts) individually and within the community.
76. This model emphasises a person centred approach and supports residents through crisis and helps build resilience to prevent future crises. The approach and its ambitions dovetail into work currently taking place in Adult and Children's Social Care and Housing, as well as the voluntary sector, which seeks to emphasise preventative, community asset based approaches to alleviate crises and reduce demand on high cost services.
77. There have been a number of organisations showing an interest in offering to be a warm places through the Winter 2022/23 and the Communities team will be working with interested organisations over the coming weeks and months to look at arrangements and support needed alongside work in community hubs.



## Food Sufficiency

78. The Community Officers for Food and the Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) Programme are both in post and have been visiting food projects and HAF providers to make introductions, gather information for mapping and intelligence on emerging challenges and opportunities. They have been visiting HAF projects together to look at how to connect families to wider food provision and other support and vice versa promoting HAF opportunities to families through food projects. They are also looking at opportunities to develop a pay it forward scheme with local businesses.
79. Officers are working with local businesses including shops, cafes and supermarkets to facilitate a shared understanding of the challenges facing communities and in turn map initiatives such as 'pay as you feel' and 'pay it forward' offers. Through building contacts and relationships raising awareness amongst businesses of ways to contribute or donate to community based food and support projects and maximising opportunities for collaboration on an area and city wide basis.
80. The aim is to set up an informal network of food project providers as part of the Good Place Network for food groups to share best practice, support each other, give advice, share information on funding etc. plus develop an email newsletter to share useful information widely. This would offer topics such as Food Safety, bid writing, money advice service so groups can develop their knowledge to better support themselves and their customers. The aforementioned mapping exercise feeds into this to make sure that everyone is aware of and has the opportunity to participate in the network.
81. Other ongoing work includes:
  - Updating and refreshing the Community Food Help pages on Live Well York and use visits to projects to encourage them to add and maintain their information.
  - Working with the council's Welfare Benefits and Strategic Partnership Manager to encourage and support signposting from food aid support to financial support and benefit advice and identify potential partners to offer food and fuel vouchers.
  - Setting up Twitter to connect with businesses and groups in York, stay up to date with events and networks/wider food picture and share good news stories.
  - Working with the Food Safety team to highlight support and information available for food projects.
  - Working with colleagues to look at links between food support and minority communities, especially those without recourse to public funds.

- Working with York Learning to look for opportunities to bring food-based maths activities to community settings.
- Working with North Yorkshire to look at strategic approaches and models elsewhere focussed on securing food sufficiency, and this will be picked up in future reports.

### **Council Plan**

82. The outcomes in this report contribute to the key Council Plan priority focussed on delivering 'Well-paid jobs and inclusive economy' and the related focus on financial inclusion. The associated Financial Inclusion Policy review will be progressed in 2022 as current activity continues to be prioritised around the impacts of the cost of living crisis.

### **Implications**

83. (a) **Financial** – The direct financial implications relate to the funding of both FISG bids and the YFAS scheme which are funded within approved budget allocations/reserves.
- (b) **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no implications
- (c) **Equalities** – There are no direct implications of this report.
- (d) **Legal** – There are no implications
- (e) **Crime and Disorder** - There are no implications
- (f) **Information Technology (IT)** - There are no implications
- (g) **Property** - There are no implications

### **Risk Management**

84. The key risks are in relation to YFAS, DHP, and other available hardship funds to support residents through what seems likely to be a protracted cost of living crisis and include:
- Forward planning of ongoing support through future budget processes as well as maximising government support will be key as the expected impacts will exist into the long term.
  - Managing the budget to ensure that customers get the same service and support irrespective of when they apply in the financial year.
  - The pandemic and now the cost of living crisis has impacted on the funding of the council and of our partners in the voluntary and charity sector, so service resilience across all partners needs to be a

key consideration for decision makers in the short and medium term to protect ongoing service delivery.

- Any failure to provide an appropriate service will have a negative impact on the wellbeing of vulnerable people.

85. These risks are managed through constant monitoring and review. The actual figures for UC, YFAS, DHP, Government support schemes and rent arrears are reported to each FISG meeting to allow early intervention.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

David Walker  
Head of Customer &  
Exchequer Services  
Tel: 01904 552261

John Madden  
Strategic Manager  
Corporate Strategy &  
City Partnerships  
Tel No.01904 551132

Susan Wood  
Welfare Benefits &  
Strategic Partnership  
Manager  
Tel No.01904 553564

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Pauline Stuchfield Assistant Director  
Customer & Digital Services  
Tel No.01904 551706

**Report Approved** ✓

**Date** 24/08/2022

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

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

✓ All

**Annexes:**

**Annex A** – YFAS Statistics

**Annex B** – Food & Fuel Voucher Statistics

**Annex C** – Universal Credit Statistics June 22

**Background Papers:**

Approval of 2022/23 FI Awards (Executive Member for Finance & Performance 16/3/22):

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=875&MId=12660>

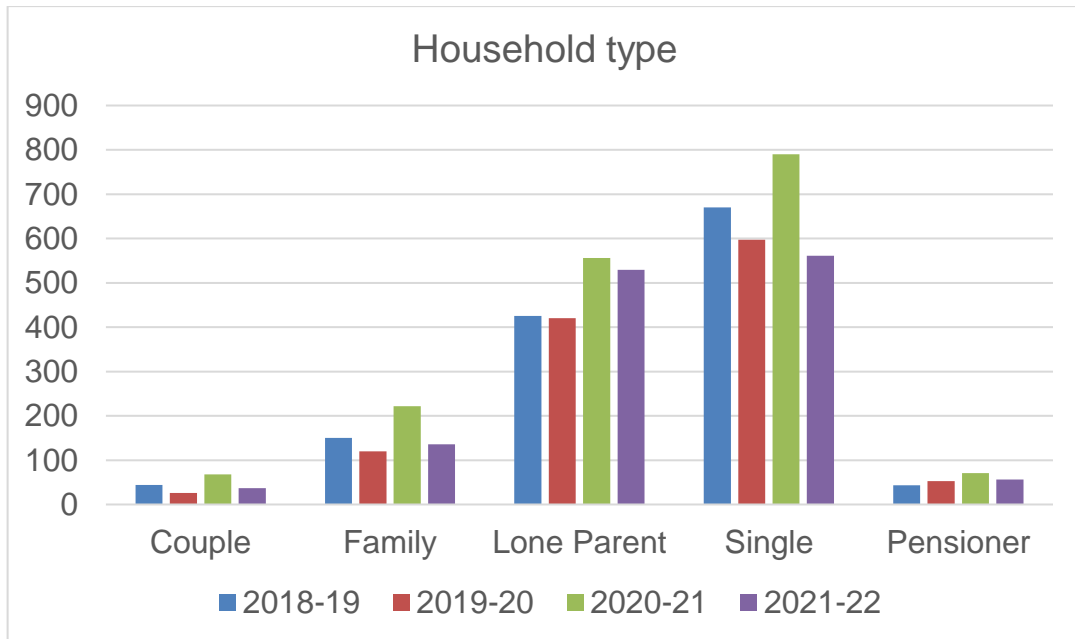
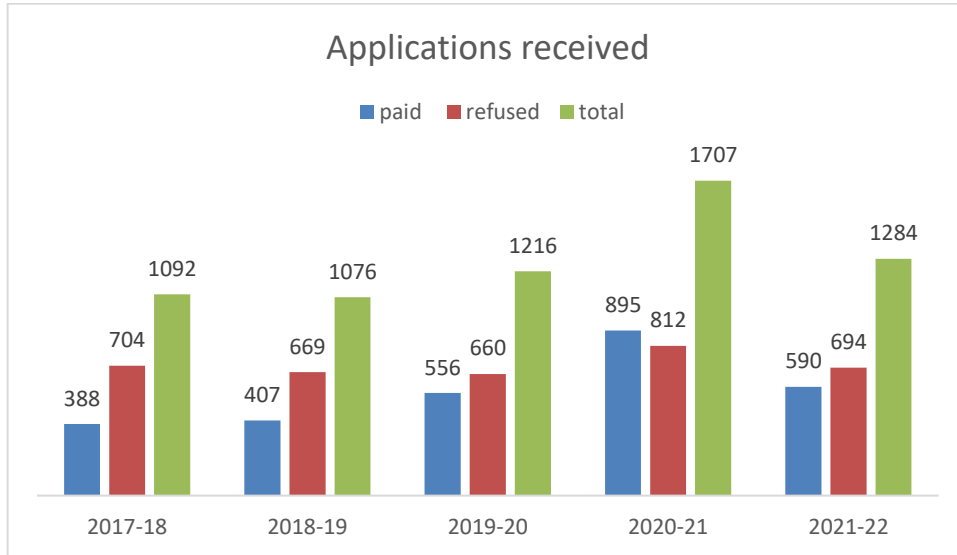
**List of Abbreviations**

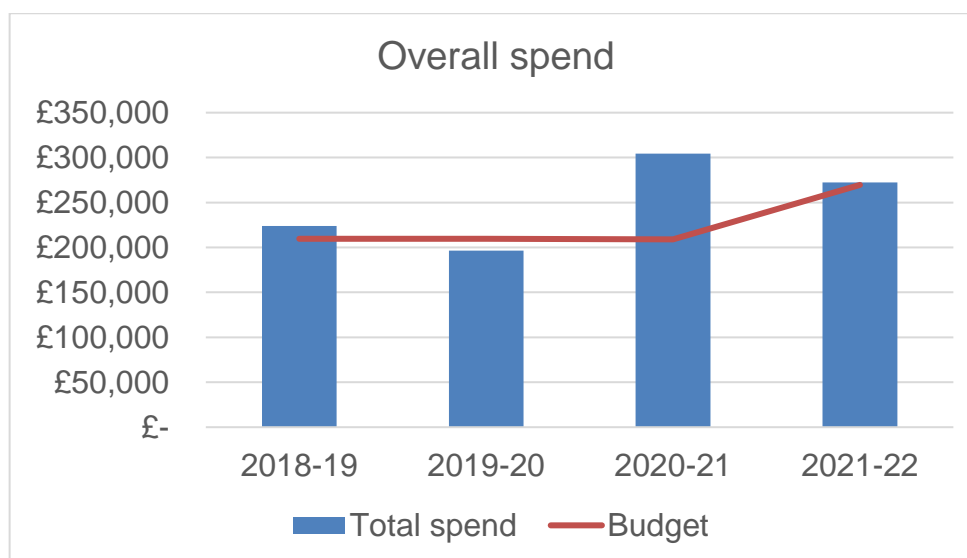
BBBF	Build Back Better Fund
CAY	Citizen's Advice York
CFS	Community Furniture Store
CTS	Council Tax Support
CVS	Council for Voluntary Services
CYC	City of York Council
DD	Direct Debits
DI	Digital Inclusion
DHP	Discretionary Housing Payment
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
FISG	Financial Inclusion Steering Group
HB	Housing Benefit
IT	Information Technology
k	Thousand
LWY	Live Well York
MCN	Multiple Complex Needs
UC	Universal Credit
YFAS	York Financial Assistance Scheme

## Discretionary Financial Support Summary Report April 2022

### York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS)

Total number of applications processed during financial year.





### Main reasons given for application

#### % Applications

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Exceptional pressures	19.2	18.9	29.9	23.2
No food	5.5	7.6	15.6	13.4
Emergency	11.7	9.4	11	13.3
Vouchers	3.9	4.6	9.5	9.4
Resettlement - homeless	9.7	8.1	7.8	10.4
Stay in the community	10	4	6	8.2
Fuel	7.3	10	16.9	8.9
Resettlement - other	7.1	8.4	3.9	6.0
Unknown	0	14	3.9	
Repair	2.9	3.8	1.8	2.6
Debt	3.3	2.8	1.5	1.0
Expenses	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.9
Disaster	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.6
Benefit delay/Universal Credit	18.6	8.6	0.9	24.6
Prison				0.4
Other				0.2

#### Grant amounts awarded

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Average award	£396	£352	£455	£172	£447
Lowest award	£20	£23	£20	£10	£15
Highest award	£193	£1,961	£1,961	£2,324	£2,522

**Items awarded**

	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Bed	43	45	31	66	40
Bedding	2	7	0	0	6
Clothing	98	4	3	17	1
Cooker	63	36	55	91	19
Curtains	30	10	18	21	6
Floor cover	48	36	36	37	33
Fridge	37	30	51	69	29
Large fridge	20	0	0	0	7
Fuel	189	67	100	46	33
Kitchen pk1	50	79	55	73	79
Kitchen pk3	2	4	5	3	3
Microwave	10	2	0	1	4
Removal	4	2	8	2	0
Repair	7	2	1	2	0
Resettlement packages	69	126	162	145	109
Sofa /chair	9	9	15	26	9
Supermarket vouchers	337	134	244	451	122
Table/ chair	1	0	0	0	0
Travel cost	26	0	7	13	0
Wardrobe	9	8	21	25	8
Washer	38	37	39	55	29
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1092</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>1143</b>	

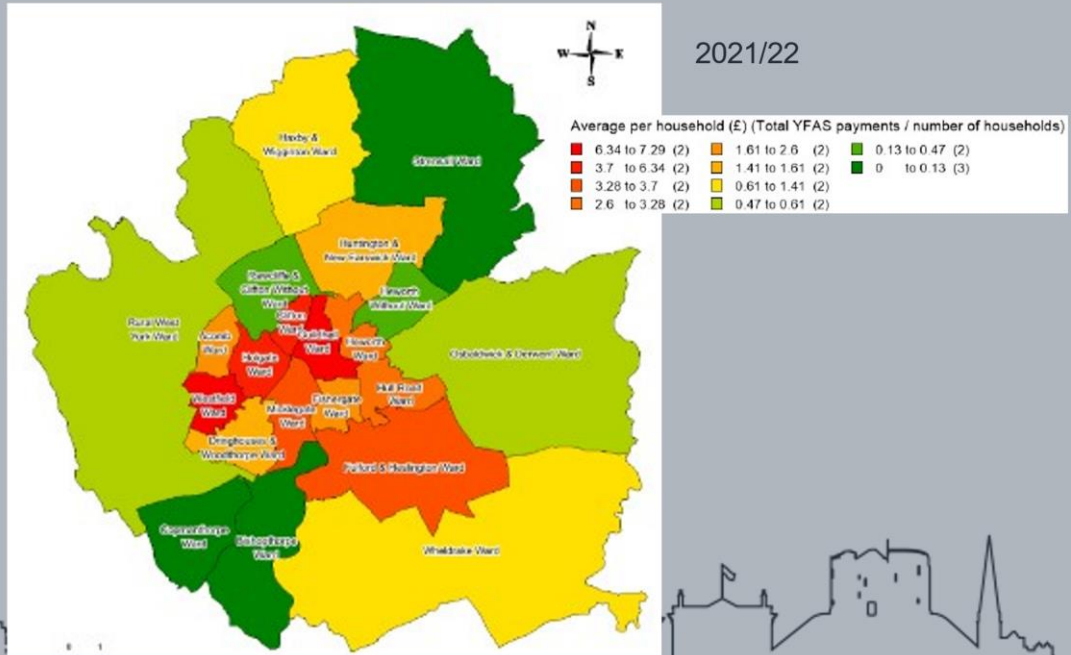
**Requests for decisions to be reviewed**

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Decision overturned	27	41	23	18	
Decision upheld	62	36	23	19	
Total received	89	77	46	37	

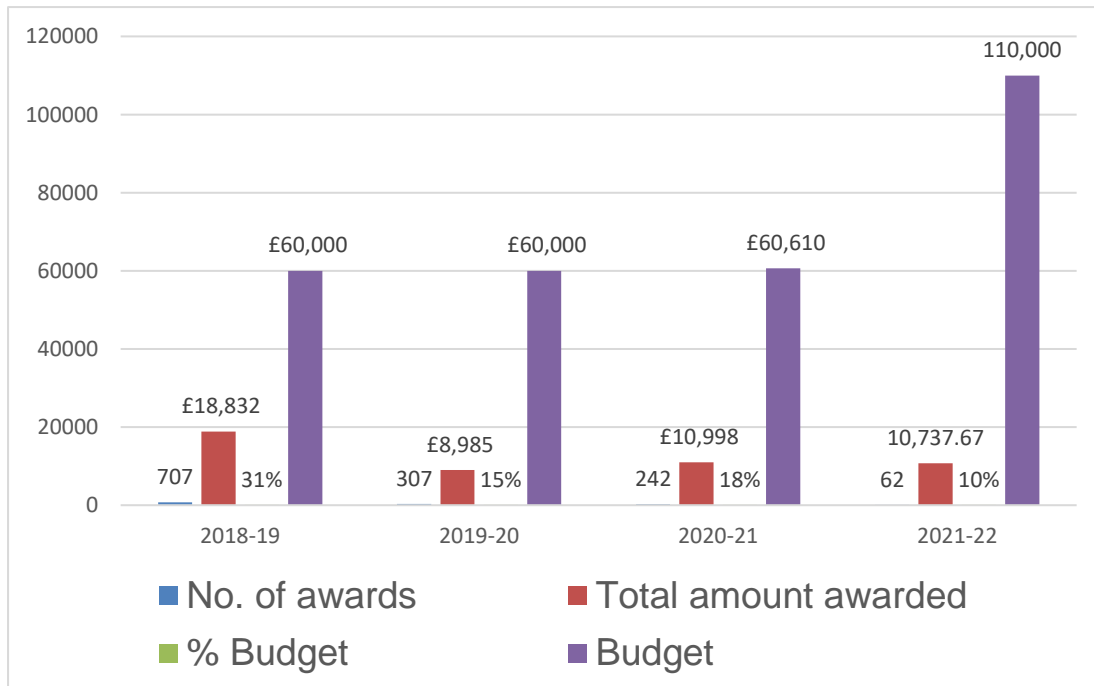
# York Financial Assistance Scheme



2021/22



## Discretionary Council Tax Reduction





## Discretionary Housing Payment

The council received £231k in government funding for DHPs for 2021/22 in order to help with housing costs and has additional CYC budget of £27k in reserve. ??? DHP's were awarded, totalling £21,377. All the government allocation was spent plus an additional amount of CYC funding.

	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22
Total DHP Fund available	£ 237,097	100%	£ 324,923	100%	£ 231,377
Amount spent	£ 211,835	89%	£ 298,252	92%	£ 231,377
Amount remaining	£ 25,262	11%	£26,671	8%	£0

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Annex B  
Food & Fuel Voucher Statistics

**CYC Fuel Voucher Scheme Dec 21 – 31 March 22**

	<b>Credit bill /direct debit</b>	<b>Pre-payment meter</b>	<b>Total no. of vouchers</b>
Single person household £28	26	76	102
Multiple person household £49	37	111	148
No of households	63	187	250
Total spend			£16,386

**CYC Fuel Voucher Scheme Quarter 1 April 22 – June 22**

	<b>Credit bill /direct debit</b>	<b>Pre-payment meter</b>	<b>Total no. of vouchers</b>
Single person household £28	34	126	160
Multiple person household £49	55	205	260
No of households	89	331	420
Total spend	£4,021	£14,963	£18,984

**CYC Food Voucher Scheme      Quarter 1 April 22 – June 22**

<b>Supermarket voucher</b>	<b>No of vouchers</b>	<b>Cost of vouchers</b>
Single person household <b>£30</b>	40	£1,200
2 -5 person household <b>£60</b>	44	£2,640
6 plus person household <b>£100</b>	32	£3,200
Grand Total	116	£7,040

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# City of York Council

## Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit Claimants

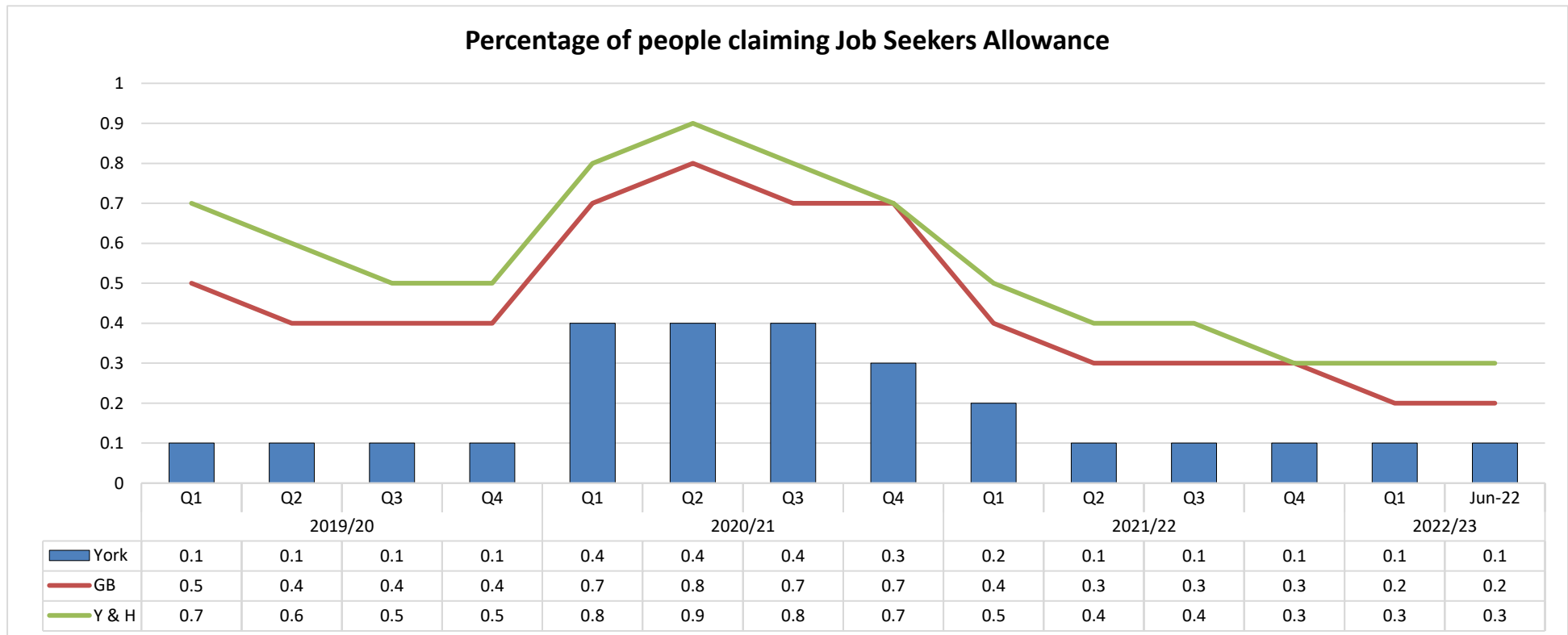
June 2022

# Job Seekers Allowance

June 2022

**York overall picture:**

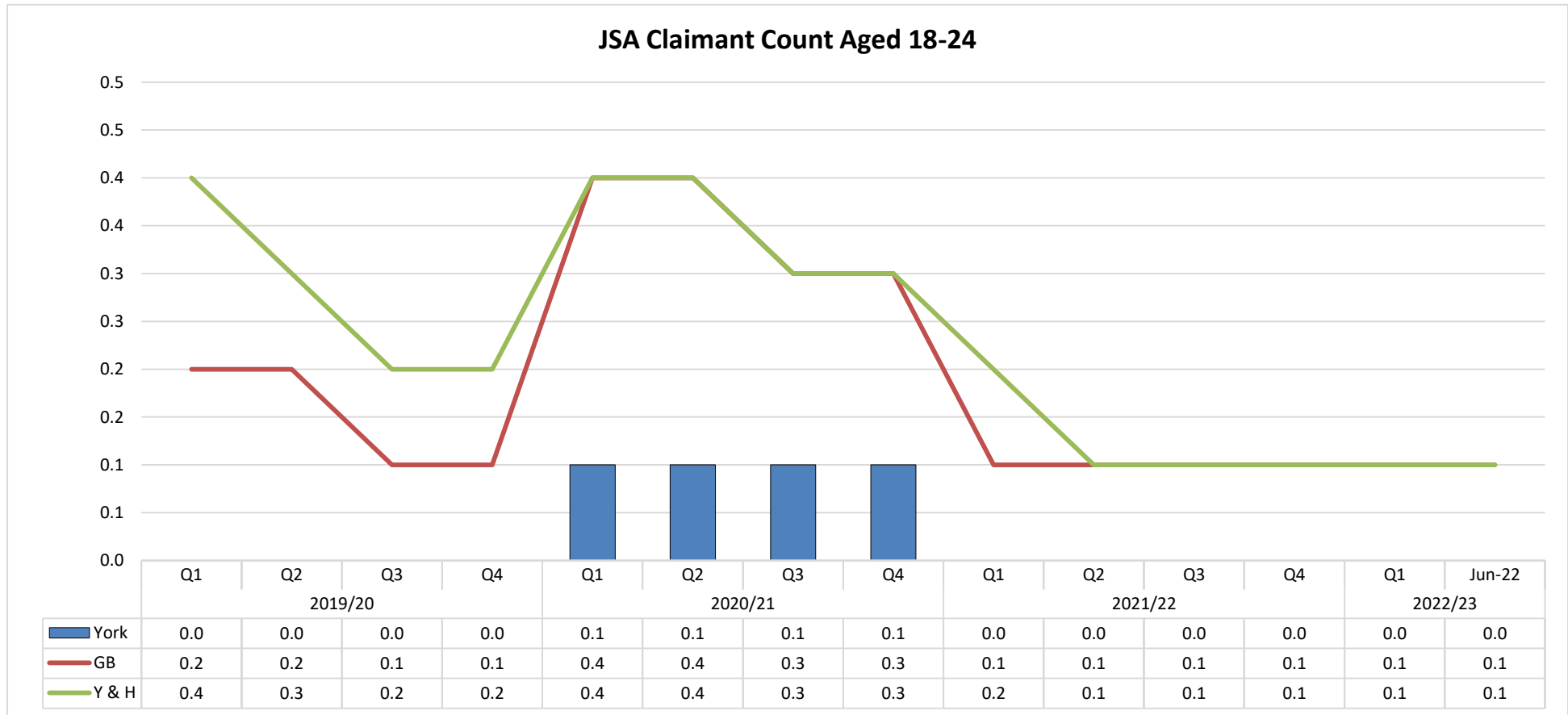
- The JSA claimant count for York in June 2022 is 155.
- In March 2020 the figure was 185, which is a decrease of 16.2%.
- This represents 0.1% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 0.3% and GB at 0.2%.
- The highest JSA claimant count in York in the past 10 years (from June 2012) is from February 2012 with a figure of 3,675 or 2.8% of the working age population.



Source: [nomis](https://www.nomis.gov.uk/) - official labour market statistics (ONS)

## JSA Claimants 18 - 24 years old

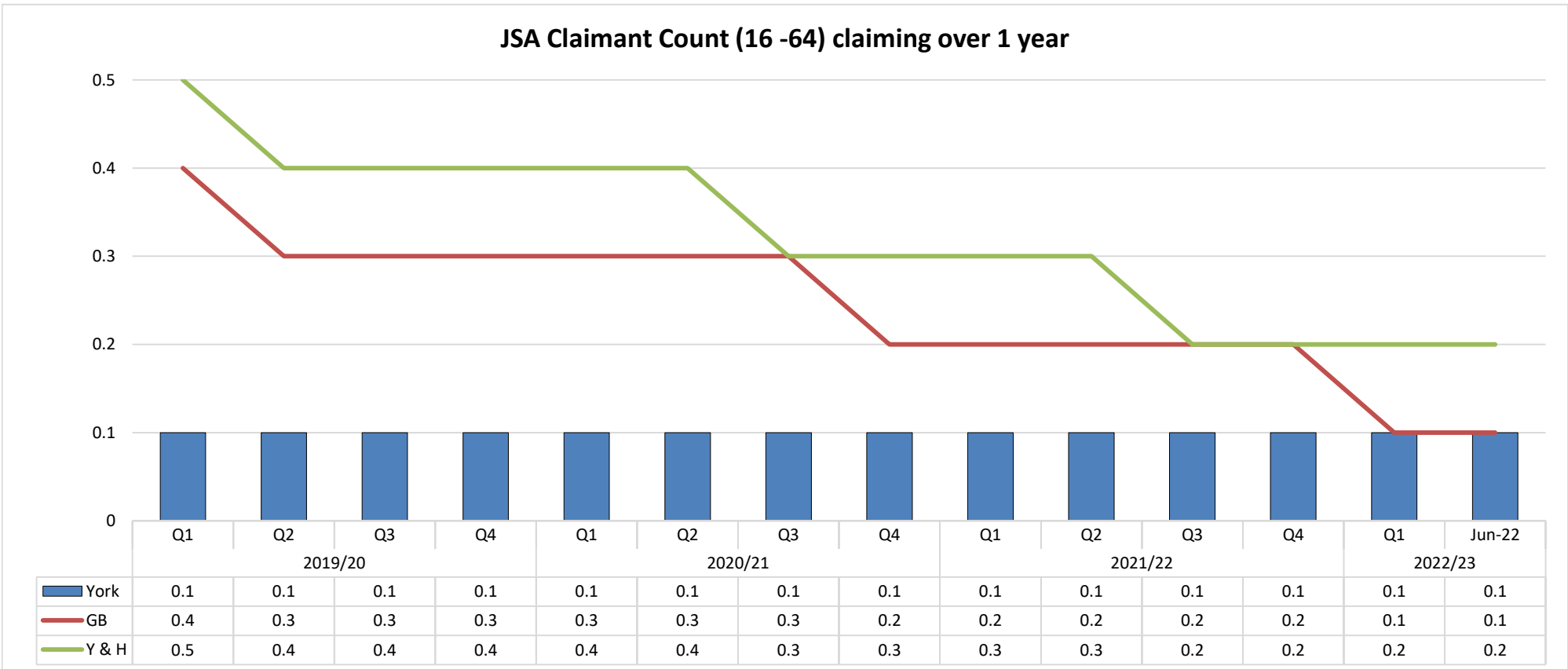
- In June 2022 the total number of claimants (18-24) stood at 10, an increase of 5 from March 2020.
- This represents 0.0% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 0.1% and GB at 0.1%.



Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](https://www.nomis.gov.uk/)

## JSA Claimants out of work for over one year

- Claimants out of work for over one year, showed no change from last month, 20 less than one year ago - a 21.1% decrease.
- This represents 0.1% of the working age population who were out of work for over 1 year.
- The region stands at 0.2% and GB at 0.1%.

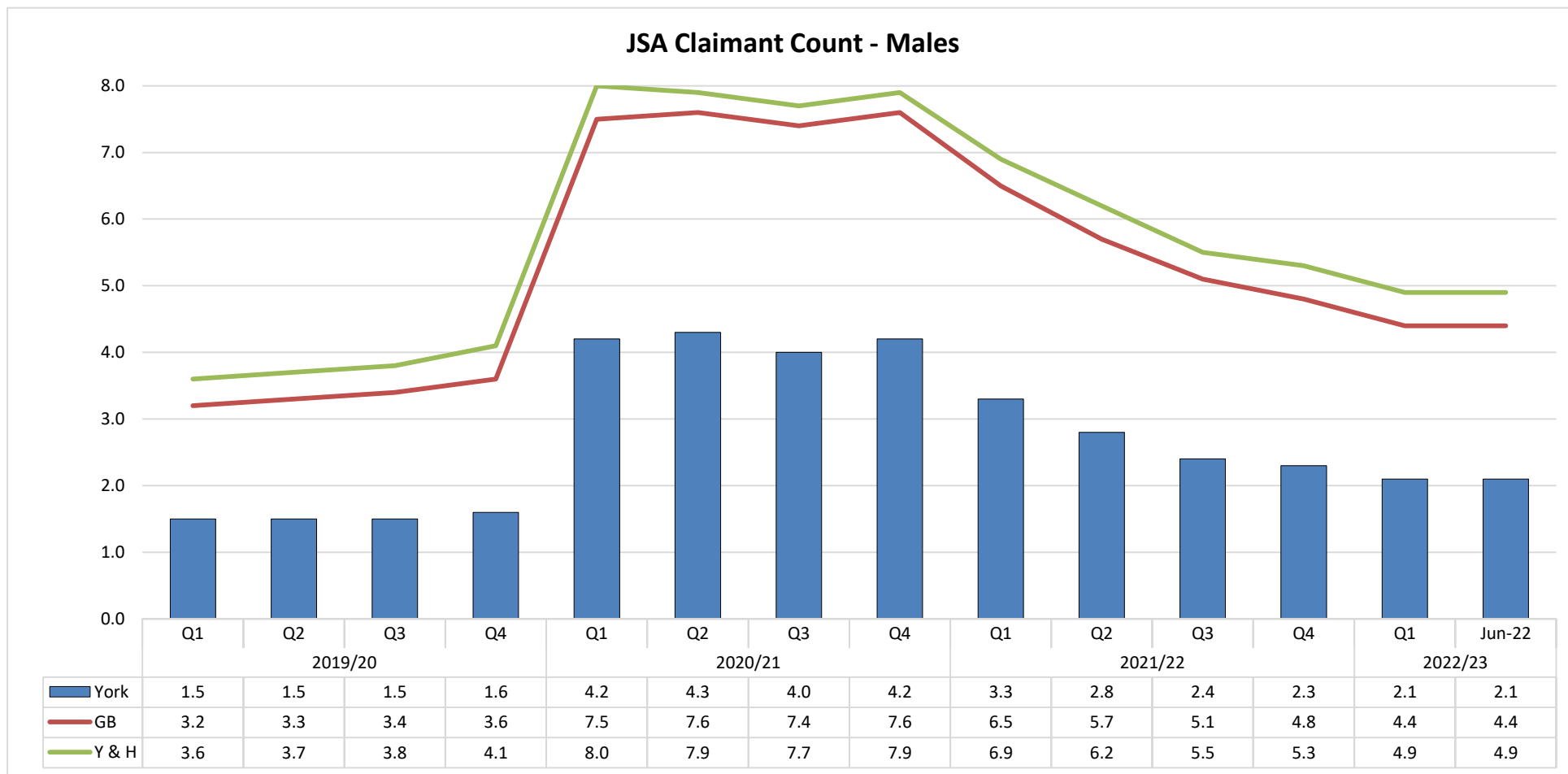


Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)



## JSA Male Claimant Count

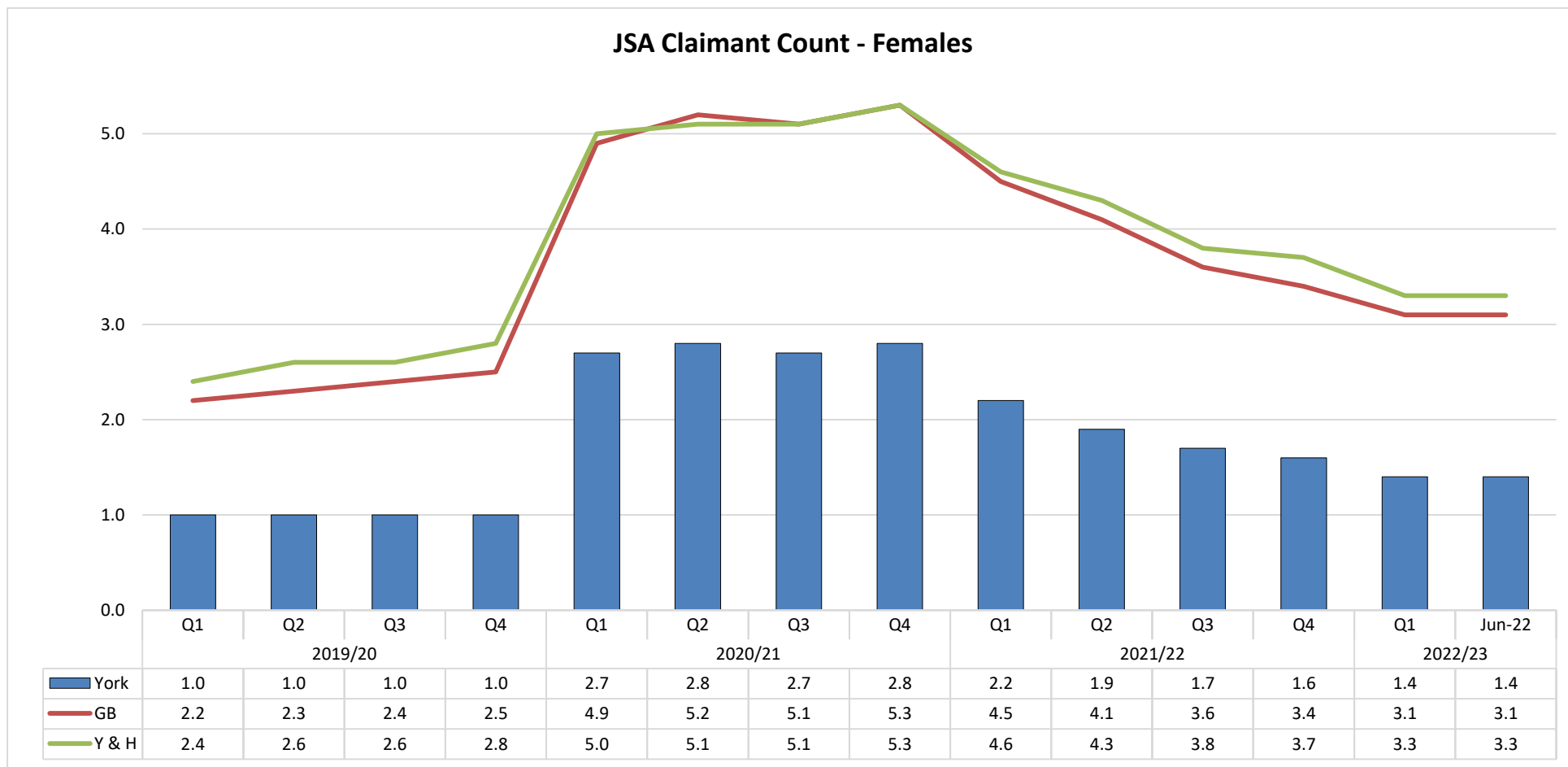
- Male Claimants have decreased by 10 from last month, totalling 100, 40 less than one year ago - a 28.6% decrease.
- This represents 2.1 % of the male working age population.
- The region stands at 4.9% and GB at 4.4%.



Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](https://www.nomis.gov.uk)

## JSA Female Claimants

- Female Claimants have decreased by 5 from last month, totalling 55, 60 less than one year ago - a 52.2% decrease.
- This represents 1.4 % of the female working age population.
- The region stands at 3.3% and GB at 3.1%.



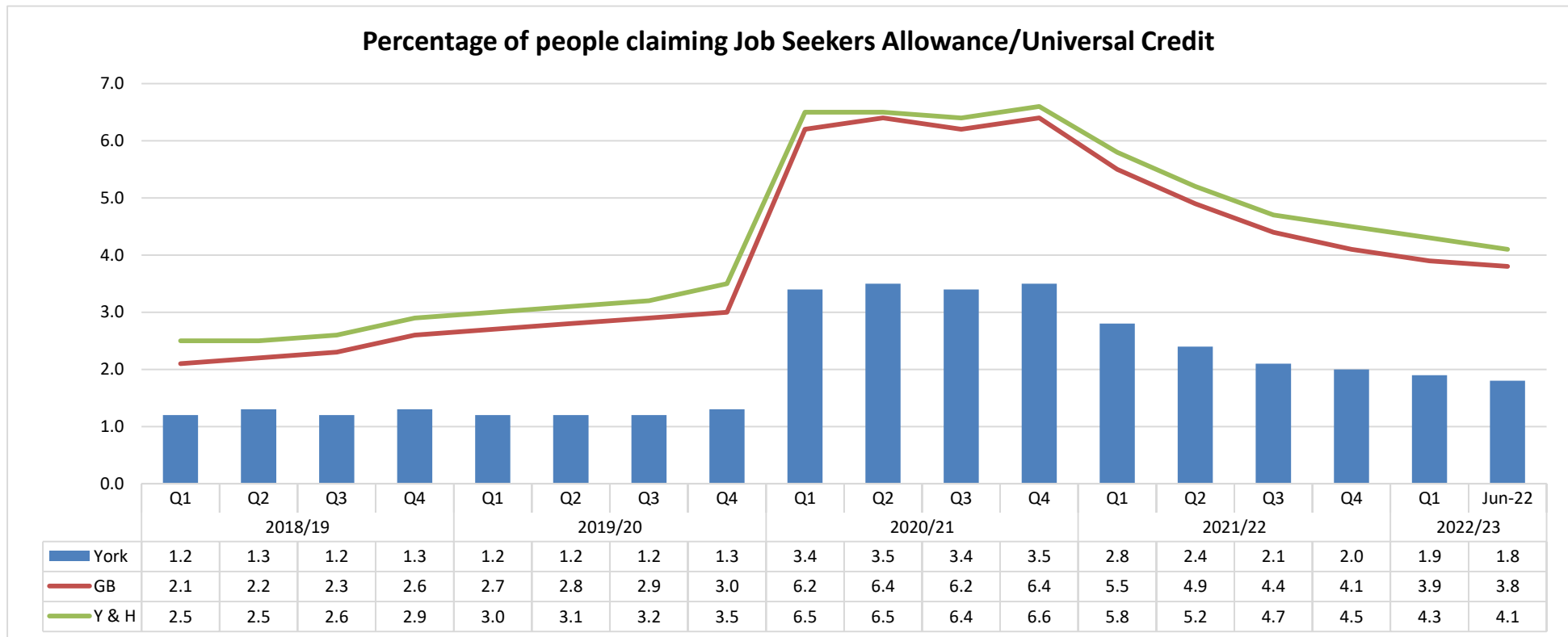
Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)

# Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit Claimants

June 2022

## York Jobseekers Allowance/Universal Credit overall picture:

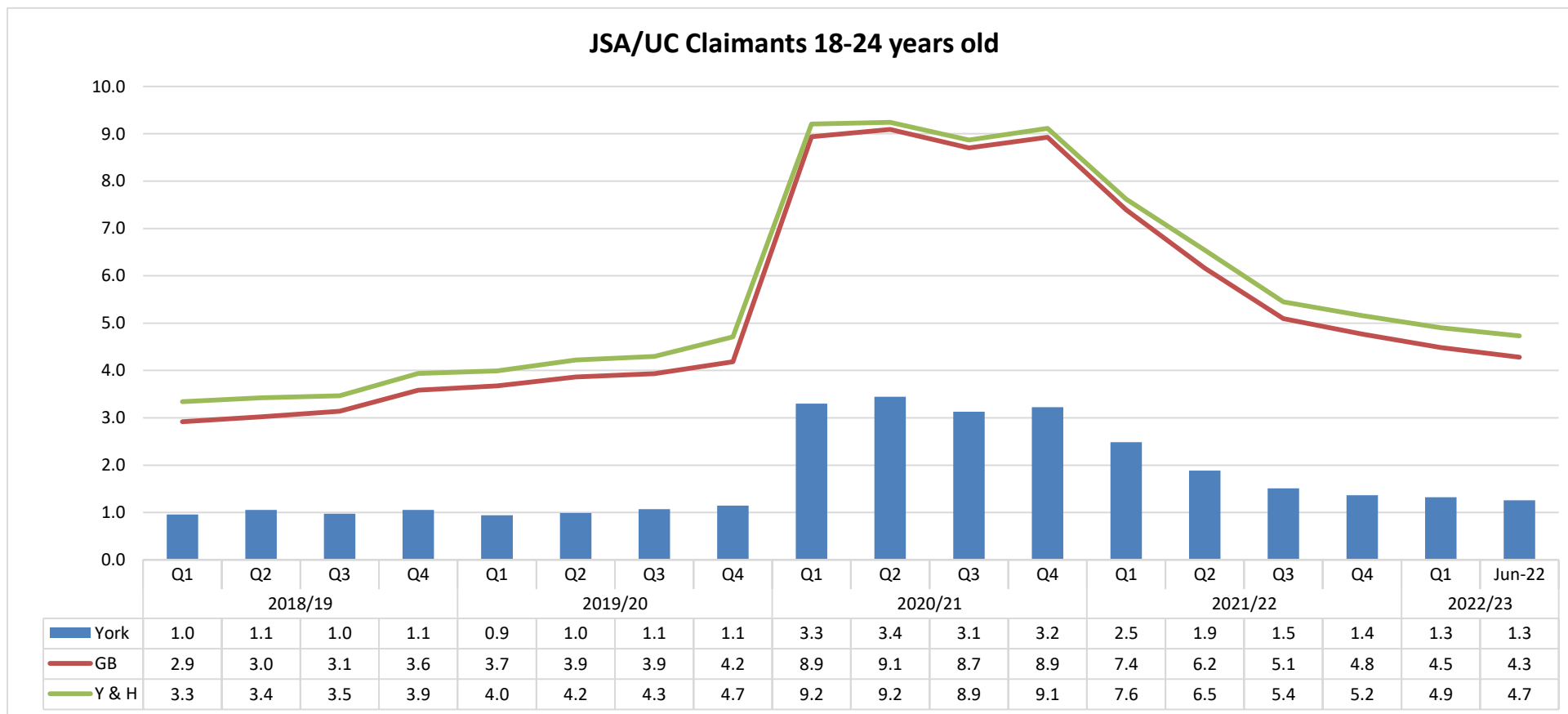
- The JSA/UC claimant count for York in June 2022 is 2,480.
- In May 2020 the figure was 5060, this is a decrease of 2580 (51.0%) since May 2020 .
- This represents 1.8% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 4.1% and GB at 3.8%.
- The highest JSA/UC claimant count in York in the past 4 years (from June 2018) is from August 2020 with a figure of 5,080 or 3.6% of the working age population.



Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](https://www.nomis.gov.uk/)

## JSA/UC Claimants 18 - 24 years old

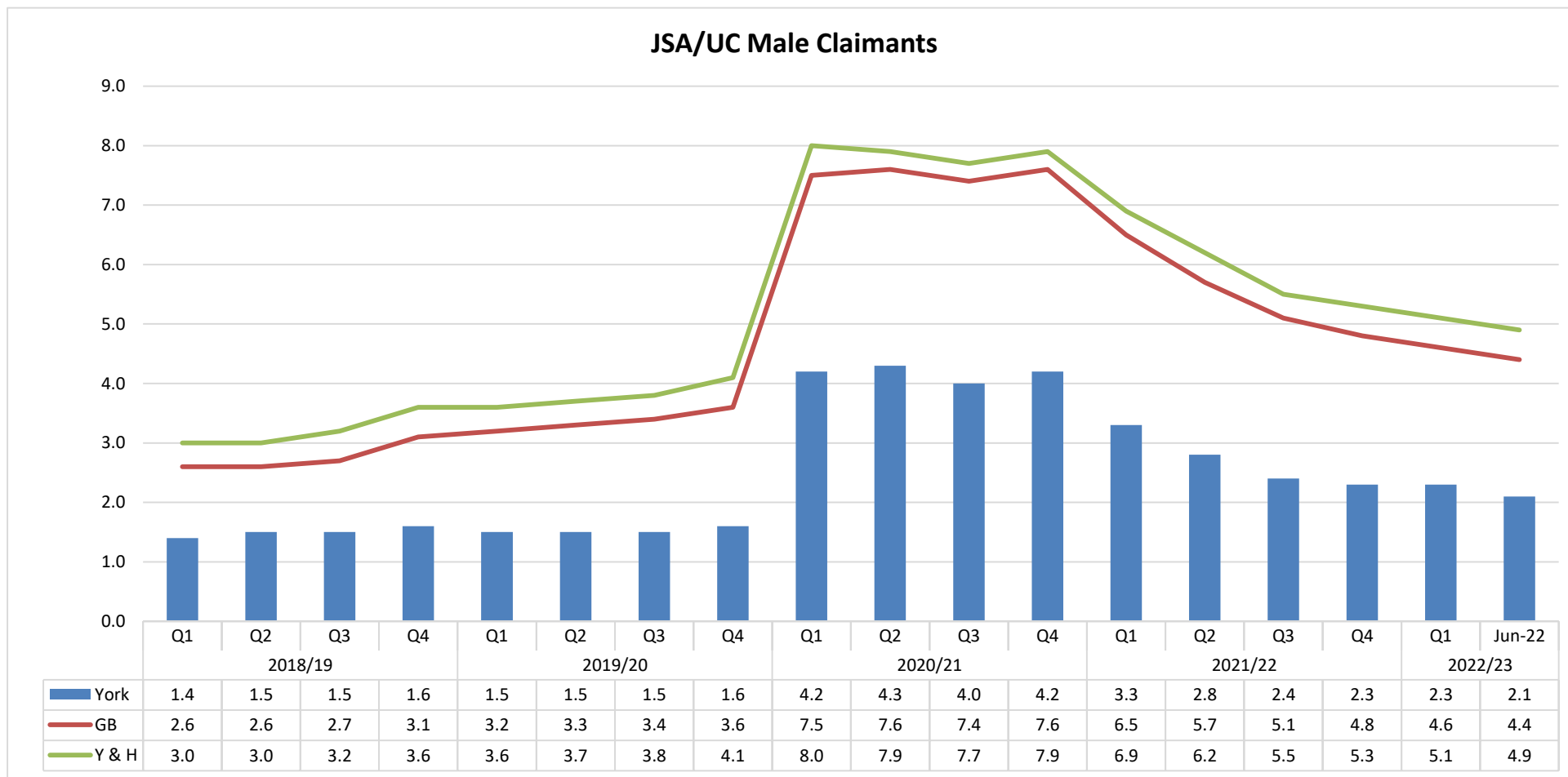
- In June 2022 the total number of claimants (18-24) stood at 400, a reduction of 10 (a 2.4% decrease) from May 2022.
- This represents 1.3% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 4.7% and GB at 4.3%.



[Source: nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)

## JSA/UC Male Claimant Count

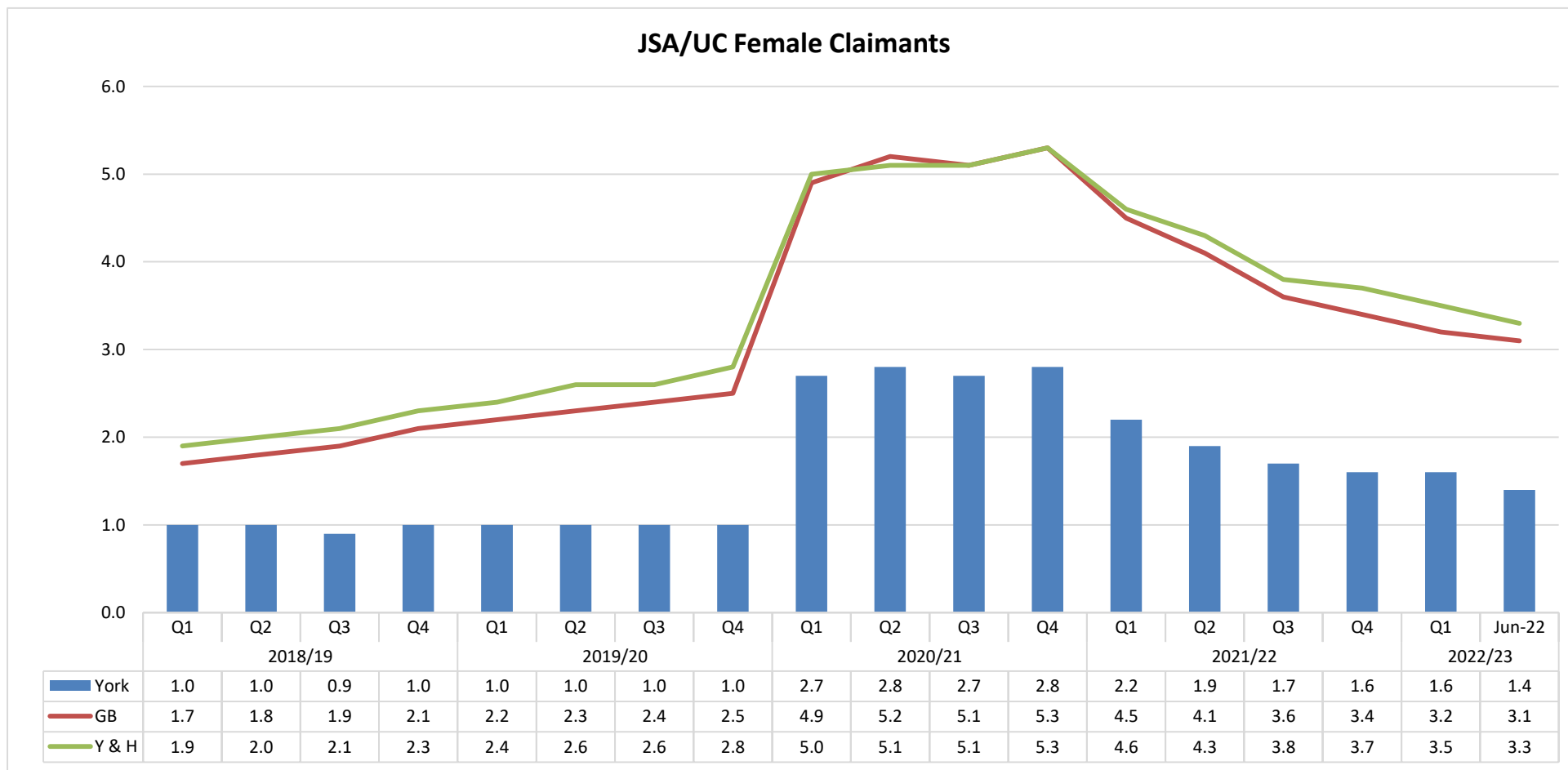
- Male Claimants have decreased by 40 from last month, totalling 1,470, 1,505 less than one year ago - a 50.6% decrease.
- This represents 2.1 % of the male working age population.
- The region stands at 4.9% and GB at 4.4%.



Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](https://www.nomis.gov.uk)

## JSA/UC Female Claimants

- Female Claimants have decreased by 20 from last month, totalling 1,010, 965 less than one year ago - a 48.9% decrease.
- This represents 1.4 % of the female working age population.
- The region stands at 3.3% and GB at 3.1%.



Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)

## Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit Claimants

### York Wards

Below are the claimant count for Wards comparing the latest available data with the previous month and the previous year.

#### Job Seekers Allowance And Universal Credit Claimants - Ward Analysis (Jun 2022)

##### Total JSA and U/C Claimants

Ward	June 2022		May 2022		June 2021	
Westfield	3.7	325	4.0	350	5.4	475
Heworth	2.6	260	2.6	260	3.7	375
Clifton	2.4	170	2.6	180	4.1	290
Holgate	2.2	190	2.2	185	3.9	335
Acomb	2.1	115	2.0	115	3.0	170
Micklegate	2.0	190	2.0	185	3.1	295
Guildhall	1.9	290	1.8	275	2.7	410
Huntington & New Earswick	1.7	125	2.0	145	2.8	205
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	1.6	110	1.7	115	2.6	180
Hull Road	1.4	165	1.3	160	2.0	250
Heworth Without	1.4	30	1.4	30	1.8	40
Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	1.3	100	1.4	105	2.3	185
Fulford & Heslington	1.3	30	1.4	35	1.6	40
Copmanthorpe	1.3	30	1.1	25	1.6	35
Bishopthorpe	1.2	25	1.4	30	1.9	40
Strensall	1.1	55	1.2	60	1.8	90
Osbalwick & Derwent	1.1	55	1.2	60	2.1	100
Fishergate	1.1	95	1.1	100	1.8	155
Haxby & Wigginton	1.0	60	1.0	60	1.7	100
Rural West York	0.9	40	1.1	50	2.2	95
Wheldrake	0.7	15	0.7	15	1.5	35

[Source: nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)

Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

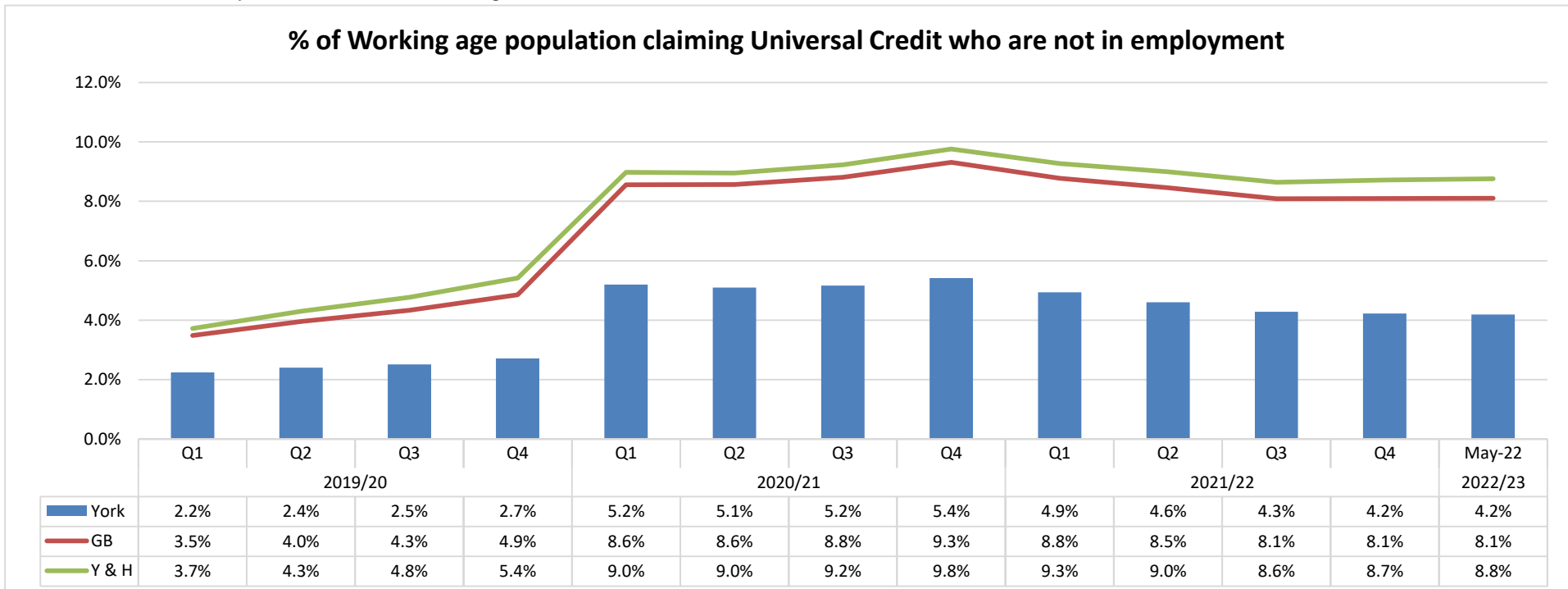
## Job Seekers Allowance

### Universal Credit Claimants

The JSA figures should be viewed in the context of the number of people receiving Universal Credit in York increasing from 11,054 in May to 11,184 in June. Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseekers Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

Of which, in May, 5,823 were not in employment. The figures will not be released until next month.

On 12 July 2017 Universal Credit became available to parents and couples in the York area, until this date Universal Credit was only available to single job seekers in the area. From November 2019 the provisional figures will show the total of those claiming Universal Credit. A breakdown will only be shown when the figures are revised.



Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)

Following the introduction of Universal Credit, the claimant count takes into account:

- people claiming contribution JSA (this is not affected by the introduction of Universal Credit)
- the figures for Universal Credit are provisional for the current month and may be revised in the next update.





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**Decision Session – Executive Member for  
Finance & Major Projects****10 October 2022**

Report of the Director of Housing Economy and Regeneration

**Levelling Up Fund Submissions – My City Centre Regeneration Bid, and  
Haxby Rail Station Transport Bid.****Summary**

1. This report follows the Executive decision in June 2022 to submit 2 bids to the second round of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF).
2. The report formally records the subsequent decision (of the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects, as delegated by the Executive), to submit the bids. The report also sets out the final bid compositions.

**Recommendations**

3. The Executive Member is asked to:
  - i. Formally note the decision (of the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Performance) to submit two LUF bids.

Reason: To comply with the constitutional requirements of the Council, and resolutions of the Executive.

- ii. Formally note the final LUF bid compositions as set out in the report.

Reason: To comply with the resolutions of the Executive Committee, confirm the final bid compositions that were submitted to government, and ensure public transparency of decision making and activity.

## Background

4. The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) was announced in the 2020 Spending Review and is a £4.8bn competitive fund run by the UK Government to invest in infrastructure across the UK.
5. Levelling Up is a key agenda for the UK Government who released the Levelling Up White Paper on 2 February 2022. This sets out 12 Missions whose delivery the government is prioritising to help create more equal opportunities across the UK by 2030. The white paper also sets out funding sources available to support the delivery of these missions, including LUF.
6. The first round of LUF allocations awarded £1.7 billion to support the delivery of 105 projects across the UK. York submitted a regeneration bid to this round in summer 2021, and whilst this was ultimately unsuccessful, the regeneration team received very positive feedback on the bid from the department for levelling up housing and communities (DLUHC) and were encouraged to resubmit the proposals with amendments into round 2.
7. The second round of the LUF was announced as part of the delivery of the 12 Levelling Up Missions. The prospectus was released on the 23 March 2022, setting out key investment themes and eligibility requirements for the next round of capital funding applications. This remained a competitive bidding process, with local authorities being placed in priority tiers for funding based on the government's perception of Levelling Up need. York being a tier 3 authority, the lowest of the priority areas.
8. York was able to submit up to three bids to this funding round, and the strategic direction was established to submit a transport bid alongside the revised regeneration bid. This approach was designed to optimise chances of success in securing funding for the City, within the funds technical and other parameters.
9. At their meeting on the 16 June 2022, the Executive endorsed this approach and committed the local authority to submitting two bids to the second round of LUF, formally resolving:
  - iii. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and

Major Projects, to submit the round two funding bids identified in this report to the LUF.

Reason: To allow officers to prepare and submit the strongest possible bids to Government...

iv. That it be noted that a report setting out the final bid submissions will be brought to a future decision session of the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects.

Reason: To confirm the final bid compositions submitted to Government.

10. With the funding submission deadline of 2 August 2022, and the complex and extensive bid documents being worked on right up to this time, the delegated approvals referred to at iii. above were secured very close to the submission point. With no August meeting of the Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects Decision Session, a forward plan item was submitted instead for this September meeting, being the earliest opportunity to formally record the decision to submit, and to report the final bid compositions, as per executive approvals. The September meeting was subsequently cancelled, hence this report being taken to an October meeting.

### Submitted Bid Composition

11. In terms of bid composition, because the funding programme is a competitive and ongoing one, and some information within bids is commercially sensitive, high level bid composition summary details are set out over the following paragraphs. The regeneration bid, revised from round 1 submission, was designed to constitute a first capital phase of the My City Centre Vision adopted by Executive in November 2021 (see background papers), comprising three transformative city centre projects, which together will realise many of the vision’s objectives and act as a catalyst for further change. The transport bid sought additional funding to deliver an improved Haxby Rail Station, with better sustainability credentials and accessibility. A more detailed description of the bid components is firstly provided in table 1 below:

Table 1: Physical Composition of bids

Sub project/ component	Description
Regeneration Bid	
Castle & Eye of York	Financial contribution to delivery of new world class public realm on the

	site of Castle Carpark at Castle & Eye of York, as defined within planning application 22/00209/FULM.
Riverside Quarter	Financial contribution to delivery of public realm/ walkway and third sector occupier fitout both proposed as part of redevelopment of area between 19 Coney Street and 2 Spurriergate
Parliament Street	Renewing and improving public realm in Parliament Street and St Sampson's Square to provide accessible, attractive, and fit for purpose spaces, to include investment in play equipment and Shambles Market
<b>Transport Bid</b>	
Haxby Station	Improved sustainable transport access to the new station, from Haxby, Wigginton and Strensall. This includes improved walking and cycling routes and road safety improvements.

12. The core LUF financial ask and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) across the bids and sub projects/ components are set out in table 2 below:

Table 2: Financial/ Economic Composition of bids

Sub project/ component	LUF Ask	BCR
<b>Regeneration Bid</b>		
Castle & Eye of York	£11.478m	3.69
Riverside Quarter	£2.812m	2.86
Parliament Street	£5.704m	2.53
<b>Combined</b>	<b>£19.994m</b>	<b>3.23</b>
<b>Transport Bid</b>		
Haxby Station	£4.947m	1.86

13. And finally, a summary of the levelling up missions against which the bids will deliver is set out in table 3 below:

Table 3: Policy Composition of bids

Bid/ Project/ component	Levelling Up Mission											
	Living standards	Research & Development	Transport Infrastructure	Digital Connectivity	Education	Skills	Health	Wellbeing	Pride in Place	Housing	Crime	Local Leadership
Regeneration Bid	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Castle & Eye	X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X
Riverside Qtr	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Parliament St	X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X
Transport Bid												
Haxby Stn			X				X	X	X			

## Consultation

14. Officers engaged with a wide range of stakeholders during the bid preparation process, to explore opportunities and synergies as part of the application process. Many city and region stakeholders also submitted formal letters of support for the bid, with priority support provided by both the York Outer and York Inner MPs. The July Executive report previously referenced was also subject of standard constitutional publicity and consultation activity. In addition to this bid level consultation, the individual projects forming the funding bids have also been developed through extensive consultation as summarised in the paragraphs below.

15. My City Centre (Regeneration Bid)

The LUF projects constitute a first capital phase of the 10 year 'My City Centre' vision, adopted in November 2021. The vision was co-created through extensive public/ stakeholder engagement over a number of years, with delivery owned by the council and key partners who came together to form a project Stakeholder Group. Engagement followed an 'open brief' approach, optimising the breadth and depth of engagement on complex city issues. The open brief approach, developed at Castle Gateway, is summarised in more detail below.

The vision had extremely high levels of public approval, with 82% of people agreeing with the vision statement, and strong support across all of the proposed action areas - averaging 81% approval. Only four action areas had less than 60% of respondents in support, with even the lowest at 55%.

The Individual projects will also be subject to further 'open brief' engagement as they are developed in more detail, building on those networks and relationships established. Riverside Quarter proposals at Coney Street are currently in pre-planning stage, with public engagement following shortly.

16. Castle & Eye of York (Regeneration Bid)

The Castle and Eye of York public realm is the centre-piece of the Castle Gateway regeneration, developed through extensive public engagement and through the Castle Gateway Advisory Group. The result is an exciting masterplan that has extensive support.

'My Castle Gateway' was a bold and innovative new approach to public consultation, ensuring the public were engaged from the very beginning of the process by developing an 'open brief' for the masterplanners, and

exploring challenges and barriers collaboratively through open conversations.

The project used a wide range of approaches to engage with the public including social media with Facebook, twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to generate creative content, stimulate online debate, and reach across a broad demographic. There have been a range of events, walks, and talks hosted by a diverse mix from formal partners such as Historic England through to midnight walks with homeless people. Every single interaction has been captured, recorded, tagged and made publically available on the project Flickr account to ensure that every opinion counts.

The Advisory Group is formed of key stakeholders to help guide the project and provide a robust critical challenge. Advisory Group members spoke in support of both the Phase 1 planning applications, and have contributed to this bid, highlighting the significant positive impact the scheme will have.

17. Haxby Station (Transport Bid)

Wide ranging public consultation exercises were undertaken in relation to the proposed Haxby Station in 2020 and more recently in 2022. The detailed station proposals will also be subject to further statutory consultation as they are developed.

Consultation undertaken to date has indicated clear support for active travel links to the proposed new station. In the most recent survey, results demonstrated that there would be a high desire from residents to travel to the station by sustainable modes: Of the 862 respondents who answered the question, 57% of respondents said they would walk to the station, 30% would cycle, and 45% would travel by bus (respondents were asked to select all applicable methods). The need for improved active travel routes is also apparent when respondents were asked for comments regarding the draft layout of the station. Numerous requests indicated a wish for improved pedestrian routes to the station to ensure it is accessible (this was the fourth most frequent free text comment from 1,200 responses), with the added benefit that improved pedestrian links would also benefit the wider community.

Requests for improved cycle links to the station were also captured, as well as requests to ensure the station has suitable cycle parking to meet demand. This demonstrates the aspiration of local residents to undertake journeys on foot or bicycle to access the station. In addition, a number of

requests were raised regarding the provision of EV charging at the station.

## Council Plan

18. Securing external funding and delivering the proposals outlined above will support a number of outcomes outlined in the Council Plan 2019- 2023:

- Well-paid Jobs and an Inclusive Economy – The proposals with supporting hard hit retail, leisure and tourism sectors to recover from COVID 19, whilst diversifying the high street to benefit York's economy, and support lowest paid sectors, alongside longer term plans to facilitate growth in higher value sectors.
- A Greener and Cleaner City – Investment in pedestrian and cycling provision and new and improved open spaces in the river corridors will help to create a greener and cleaner city.
- Getting around Sustainably – The proposals create new cycling and walking infrastructure to encourage active travel in and around the city enhanced public transport facilities, and enhancing sustainable transport across modes.
- Creating Homes and World-class Infrastructure – the proposals will transform public realm in key city centre locations and provide a world class events space that improves the setting of York's historic monuments and buildings, enhance and upgrade local road networks
- Safe Communities and Culture for All – The proposals will improve existing and create new spaces across the city centre for cultural activation and community activity.

## Implications

19. The implications of submitting the bid to secure funding to deliver capital works were set out and considered by members as part of the original June 2022 Executive Paper (see background papers).

- **Financial** - LUF bids require a minimum of 10% CYC contribution to the project costs. The council has budgets already in the capital programme to support the various bids including the Castle Gateway Scheme, Haxby Station scheme and Highway budgets which can be used to contribute towards the levelling up bids. There should therefore not be any additional budgets required if successful. Should the bid be successful a detailed funding package will need to be considered by Executive.
- **Human Resources (HR)** - none

- **Equalities** – The development of proposals is subject to funding and will need to take into account the Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it in the exercise of a public authority's functions) An equalities Impact assessment was undertaken as part of the June Executive report show as a background paper
- **Legal** - The projects in the application for the second round of the LUF are largely the same as in Round One, but with the removal of the proposals in relation to the rear of the Castle Museum. In relation to the Riverside Quarter project officers will continue to work with the private sector riverside property owners to shape the emerging riverside walkway proposals and negotiate any necessary commercial relationships with neighbouring landowners and developers. Care needs to be given in developing the relationship between the Council and the private sector riverside property owners to ensure this remains in accordance with public sector procurement legislation. The application for the transport orientated bid to the LUF is in relation to Haxby Station, specifically the improvement of active travel and sustainable connectivity. Should the application(s) to the LUF be successful the Council will develop procurement strategies to ensure the funding is used compliantly in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and subsidy control requirements (previously known as State aid). Any commercial arrangements around the associated development scheme would need to be framed to ensure best value requirements are met. Legal Services officers will work closely with project officers to ensure compliance with public sector procurement legislation and to consider the subsidy control implications of the funding of the individual projects.
- **Crime and Disorder** Input from the designing out crime officer will be sought as designs progress subject to securing funding
- **Information Technology (IT)** - none
- **Property**- none until funding secured

## Risk Management

20. Both internal and external resource is required to prepare any bid for external funding. This work has been undertaken at risk and should the bid be unsuccessful this work is mostly abortive. This risk has been



mitigated by only submitting two bids to the LUF, instead of working up a third bid from scratch. The positive feedback received on the round one bid and the relatively small amount of work required to update and resubmit this bid, coupled with the size of the opportunity, offsets this risk.

21. Successful bids need CYC contribution funding, which can be evidenced through existing proposed funding strategies. Should the LUF bids be successful, a report will be brought back to Executive to take the decision whether to accept the funding and proceed with the delivery of the projects.

### Contact Details

**Author:**

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

**Author's name** Ben Murphy  
**Title** Regeneration Programme Manager  
**Dept Name** Regeneration  
**Tel No.** 01904 551415

**Chief Officer's name** Tracey Carter  
**Title** Director Housing Economy & Regeneration

**Report Approved**  **Date** 29/09/2022

### Specialist Implications Officer(s)

**Financial:-** Patrick Looker Finance Manager  
**Legal -** Cathryn Moore Legal Manager - Projects

All

**Wards Affected:** Micklegate, Guildhall, Haxby & Wiggington, Strensall]

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Background Papers:

[16.6.2022 Levelling Up and UK Shared Prosperity Executive Report and Annexes \(Agenda Item 5\)](#)

[18.11.2021 My City Centre Vision Adoption Executive Report and Annexes \(Agenda Item 52\)](#)

## **Annexes**

None

## **List of Abbreviations Used in this Report**

BCR (Benefit Cost Ratio)

DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities)

LUF (Levelling Up Fund)



10 October 2022

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## Decision Session – Executive Member for Finance and Performance

Report of the Director of Housing, Economy & Regeneration.

### Application for Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act 2011

#### Summary

1. This report details an application to list Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn, York as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), for consideration by the Council. The application has been received from Naburn Parish Council.

#### Recommendations

2. The Executive Member is asked to consider the officer recommendation to:

Approve the renewal of the listing of Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn, York, as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) for the reasons outlined within this report.

Reason: To ensure the Council meets its legislative requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and promotes community access to community facilities.

#### Background

3. The application has been received, for a decision by the Executive Member in the Council's statutory capacity as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing authority.
4. The freehold of the site is owned by Marston's Pubs Limited. The Blacksmiths Arms was previously entered on the Council's list of ACV property on 12 September 2016 following an earlier ACV nomination received on 9 August 2016. Pursuant to Section 87(3) of the Localism Act 2011 land/property must be removed from the ACV list

after 5 years from date of listing. This application is a request to re-add the site onto the Council's AVC list (for a further period of 5 years).

5. The purpose behind these provisions is to ensure that property (land and building) assets which are currently used to the benefit of the local communities are not disposed of without the local community being given a fair opportunity to bid for these assets when they are put on the open market. This right is not simply to accommodate 'public assets' but also private assets, the test is whether such assets are viewed as 'assets of community value'. These assets therefore could be currently owned by the public, private or voluntary sector.
6. The definition of 'land of community value' is set out in section 88 of the Localism Act 2011. To be considered as an asset of community value the land or property must satisfy either of the following criteria:
  - a. 88(1) an actual current non-ancillary use of the building or other land furthers the well-being or social interests of the community and whether it is realistic to think that there can continue to be non-ancillary use of the building or other land which will further (whether or not in the same way) the social well-being or social interests of the local community

OR

  - b. 88(2) there is a time in the recent past when an actual non-ancillary use of the building or other land furthered the social well-being or social interests of the local community and it is realistic to think that there is a time within the next 5 years when there could be non-ancillary use (whether or not the same use as before) that would further the social well-being or social interests of the local community
7. There is no exhaustive list of what is considered to be an asset of community value but cultural, recreational and sporting interests are included. Excluded specifically are residential type properties (such as hotels, housing in multiple occupation and residential caravan sites) and operational land of statutory undertakers.

### **The process**

8. The regulations set out how potential assets can be listed which in brief are as follows:

- **Nomination** – this can be by a voluntary or community body with a local connection. This includes parish councils, neighbourhood forums, charities, community interest groups but excludes public or local authorities (except parish councils).
- **Consideration** – the local authority have 8 weeks to make the decision. Under the Council's procedures the Executive member is the decision maker. If the nomination is successful the asset details are entered onto the 'Community Value list' – see further details in the report – and also the local land charges register. If unsuccessful then the details are entered onto an 'unsuccessful nominations' list for a period of 5 years to prevent repeat nominations. The owner can request a review of the decision which must be completed within 8 weeks and the owner can further appeal within 28 days of the review outcome to a Tribunal. Neither the Localism Act nor the ACV Regulations give the nominating organisation any right to appeal a decision of the local authority that the nominated property is not an asset of community value/does not satisfy the necessary S.88 criteria referred to above.
- **Disposal of assets on the list** – if a building or piece of land which is on the list is going to be sold with vacant possession then the owner of the asset needs to give notice to the local authority. There is then a 6 week moratorium period for any community group to express interest in writing and if they do, then a 6 month period is provided for that group to prepare its bid. After that period the owner can market the property and any bid from the community group will be considered with bids from other interested parties. There is no guarantee that the offer from the community group will be successful as the owner of the asset will dispose of the property in accordance with its own criteria for disposal. There are a number of exceptions contained within the legislation that mean that this moratorium period does not apply to and the owner does not need to give notice of its intention to sell. This includes when there is a legally enforceable requirement, which pre-dates the listing, to sell to a specific party.
- **Compensation** – the presence of the land or building asset on the community value list may result in additional expenditure or a loss to the owner and therefore the owner can apply for compensation from the local authority. The figure is limited to costs or losses incurred only whilst the asset is on the list and could include such items as legal expenses for appeals, costs relating to the delay in the sale (such as maintenance, security, utility costs, loss of value).

## **Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn**

9. According to Land Registry records, the freehold of the Blacksmiths Arms is owned by Marston's Pubs Limited. The Blacksmiths Arms is currently open and trading. The nomination is being made by Naburn Parish Council (NPC). Legal Services have confirmed that a nomination must be considered by the Council if the nominator is someone who meets the eligibility criteria specified in the relevant legislation. NPC, as Parish Council for the area in which the nominated land is situated, are an eligible body entitled to submit a nomination for the purposes of the ACV regulations.
10. In accordance with regulations requiring that the owner of the nominated property be notified of a nomination, Marston's Pubs Limited has been informed in writing that the application has been made. They have been invited to make representations regarding the information.
11. The current tenant of the lease registered with the Land Registry is Danjo Partnership LLP. Notice of the nomination has been served on them in case they still hold any leasehold interest in the property.
12. The occupier of the Blacksmiths Arms has also been advised. No response has been received from the parties consulted.
13. NPC state in their nomination that the services provided by the pub furthers the social wellbeing and interests of the local community with local people being able to enjoy a range of drinks and food in a pleasant, convivial atmosphere.
14. The Blacksmiths Arms is the only pub in the village, and it enables people to meet and socialise in a welcoming environment and has good disabled access.
15. Historically the pub has hosted regular quiz nights, music and beer festivals and fundraising events for local charities.
16. The Blacksmiths arms has been a supporter of camping and marina developments within the village.
17. NPC have confirmed that recently, events have lessened largely driven by the effects of Covid and staffing. This they state makes the pubs preservation more vital.

## **Analysis**

18. If the decision is to approve the ACV nomination application then the owner of the property has a statutory right to request a review of that decision by submitting a review request to the Council within 8 weeks of the decision date. (If the decision is to reject the ACV nomination application, the legislation does not give the nominating group any right to appeal that request though they could potentially seek a judicial review (J.R.) of the decision by submitting a J.R. claim to the High Court).

## **Options & Recommendation**

19. The application to renew the listing of the Blacksmiths Arms as an Asset of Community Value can either be accepted or rejected. There are no other options as it is considered that sufficient information has been provided to make a decision.
20. Based on the information provided, it is recommended to renew the listing of the ACV for the Blacksmiths Arms.

## **Council Plan**

21. A Council that listens to residents through working with communities and partners.

## **Implications**

### **22. Financial**

Compensation may be payable by the Council to the owner of any property which is listed. The figure is limited to costs or losses incurred only whilst the asset is on the list and could include such items as legal expenses for appeals, costs relating to the delay in the sale (such as maintenance, security, utility costs, loss of value).

### **23. Human Resources (HR) – none**

### **24. Equalities, Crime and Disorder and IT - none**

25. **Legal** – Advice and comments have been sought from Legal Services and incorporated within this report.

26. **Property** – All property issues included in the report

27. **Other** – none

### **Risk Management**

There are no significant risks to these applications.

### **Contact Details**

Tim Bradley  
Asset Manager  
Asset and Property Management  
Tel No. 01904 553355

Tracey Carter  
Director  
Economy Regeneration and Housing  
Tel. No. 01904 553419

**Report  
Approved**



01/09/22



**Ward Affected:** Wheldrake

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### **Annexes**

Annex 1 – Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn, York – Application to add to the list of assets of community value.

Annex 2 – Site Plan

Annex 3 – Current list of assets of community value

Abbreviations used in the report

ACV - Assets of Community Value

NPC – Naburn Parish Council





## ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE NOMINATION FORM

If you need assistance completing this form, then please refer to the guidance document which can be downloaded from the website [www.york.gov.uk/assetsofcommunityvalue](http://www.york.gov.uk/assetsofcommunityvalue) or alternatively call 01904 553360.

### Section 1

#### About the property to be nominated

Name of Property:	BLACKSMITHS ARMS
Address of Property:	MAIN STREET NARBURN YORK
Postcode:	YO19 4PN

Property Owner's Name:	MARSTONS PLC
Address:	MARSTONS HOUSE WOLVERHAMPTON BREWERY ROAD
Postcode:	NV1 4JT
Telephone Number:	01902 711 811
Current Occupier's Name:	ANTHONY BUCKEY - TENANT & LANDLORD

### Section 2

#### About your community organisation

Name of Organisation:	NARBURN PARISH COUNCIL
Title:	MR
First Name:	PHILIP
Surname:	ASHWORTH
Position in Organisation:	ELECTED COUNCILLOR
Email Address:	
Address:	NARBURN YORK
Postcode:	
Telephone Number:	

#### Organisation type:

Click in field for options

#### Organisation size

How many members do you have?

**Section 3**

**Supporting information for nomination**

Any information entered in this section only may be copied and passed onto the owner of the property you are nominating. Definition of an asset of community value can be found in the guidance document.

Why do you feel the property is an asset of community value? Please give as much information as possible.

Two village pub has been the focal point of the village for 100's of years  
This is a renewal application

**Section 4**

**Boundary of Property**

What do you consider to be the boundary of the property? Please give as much detail/be as descriptive as possible. Please include a plan.

**Section 5**

**Attachment checklist**

- Copy of group constitution (if you are a constituted group)
- Name and home address of 21 members registered to vote in nomination area (if group is not constituted)
- Site boundary plan (if possible)

**Section 6**

**Declaration**

I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this nomination form is complete and accurate.

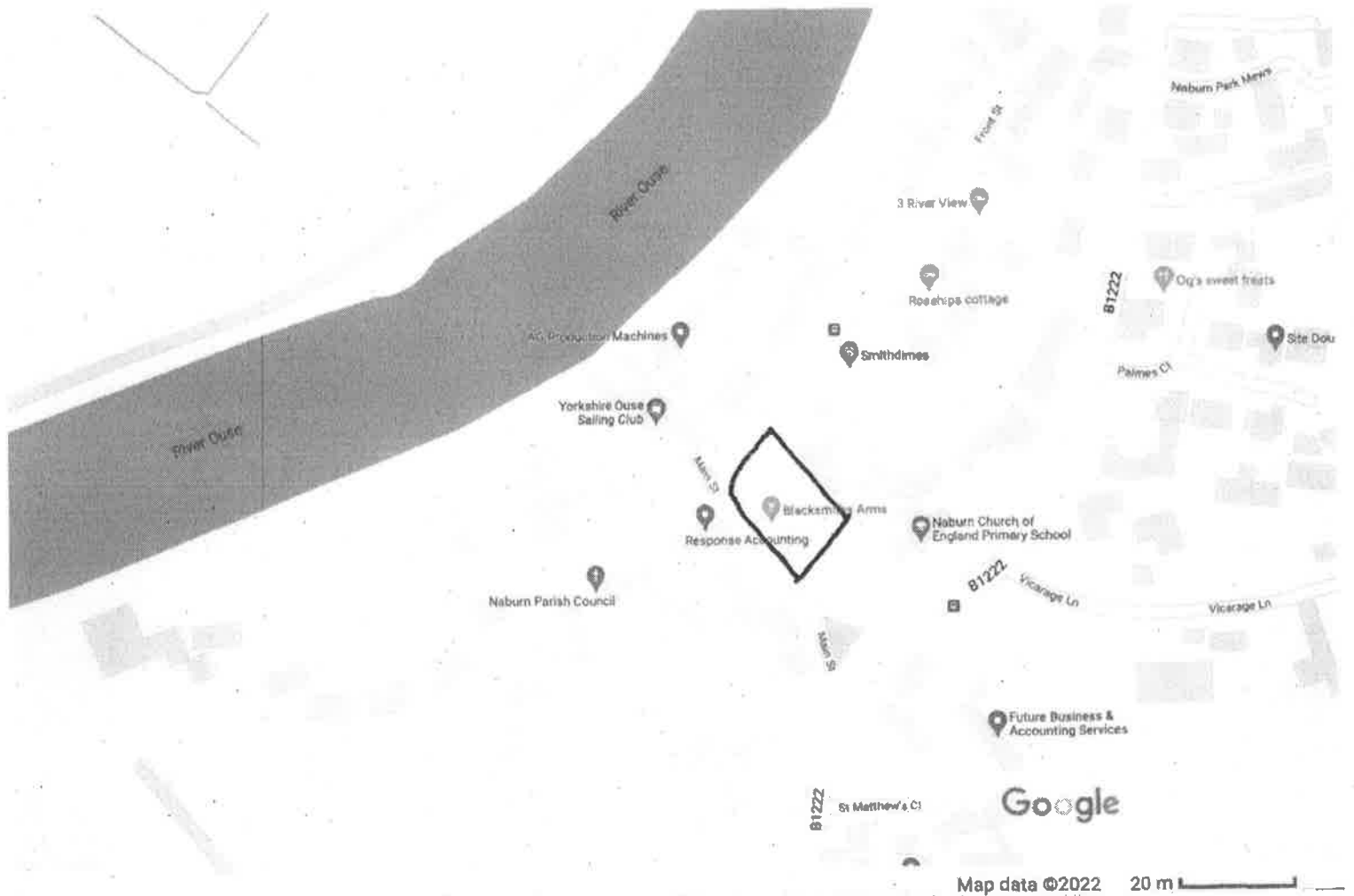
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 2 July 2022

Please e-mail your completed form to [property.services@york.gov.uk](mailto:property.services@york.gov.uk) or post to:

Asset and Property Management  
City of York Council  
West Offices  
Station Rise  
York  
YO1 6GA

Google Maps Naburn





The pub provides the following services which further the social wellbeing and interests of the local community:

- The pub enables local people to enjoy a range of drinks (and food) in a pleasant, convivial atmosphere, which furthers their individual well-being
- The pub enables local people to enjoy a range of drinks (and food) in a pleasant, convivial atmosphere, which furthers their individual well-being
- The pub enables local people to meet and socialise in a welcoming environment which, individually, they find rewarding and enjoyable. Such social interaction is also in the interests of the locality as a whole as it encourages community cohesion and a collective sense of well-being.
- New research from Oxford University shows that people who have a 'local' pub are happier, are more satisfied with their life and have a wider network of friends. The research is available at: <http://www.camra.org.uk/pubs-wellbeing>
- The Council has a local plan in place to protect public houses. The Council should therefore recognise the pub as an ACV to reflect the wishes expressed in the local plan to protect them.
- There is good access for disabled people at the pub
- The Pub has been included in a tourist or local pub guide
- There are good transport links available to/from the pub
- This is the only pub in the village
- There is free parking available which is accessed by the wider community
- Free wifi is available for customers
- The pub hosts regular quiz nights which bring the community together
- The pub has a great food menu enjoyed by the local community
- There are televisions screening sporting events enjoyed by patrons
- There is a beer garden attached to the pub which is used and enjoyed by local people
- The pub has special value to local heritage and culture which should be protected;  
it is one of only three focal points in which the village can gather and socialise (along with the church and school)
- Meeting spaces are available for local community groups and charities such as the Community Fund group and Street Party Committee
- Local sports teams meet in the pub such as the Naburn Dad's cricket team
- The pub offers Board Games
- The pub hosts a Music and Beer Festival
- The pub holds fundraising events for local charities and also holds a Nepal Fundraising Supper
- The pub offers a Pensioners Special each week which draws a large number of the older villagers into the pub to socialise
- The pub supports the extensive camping and marina developments within the village

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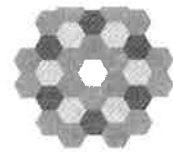
**These are the notes referred to on the following official copy**

The electronic official copy of the title plan follows this message.

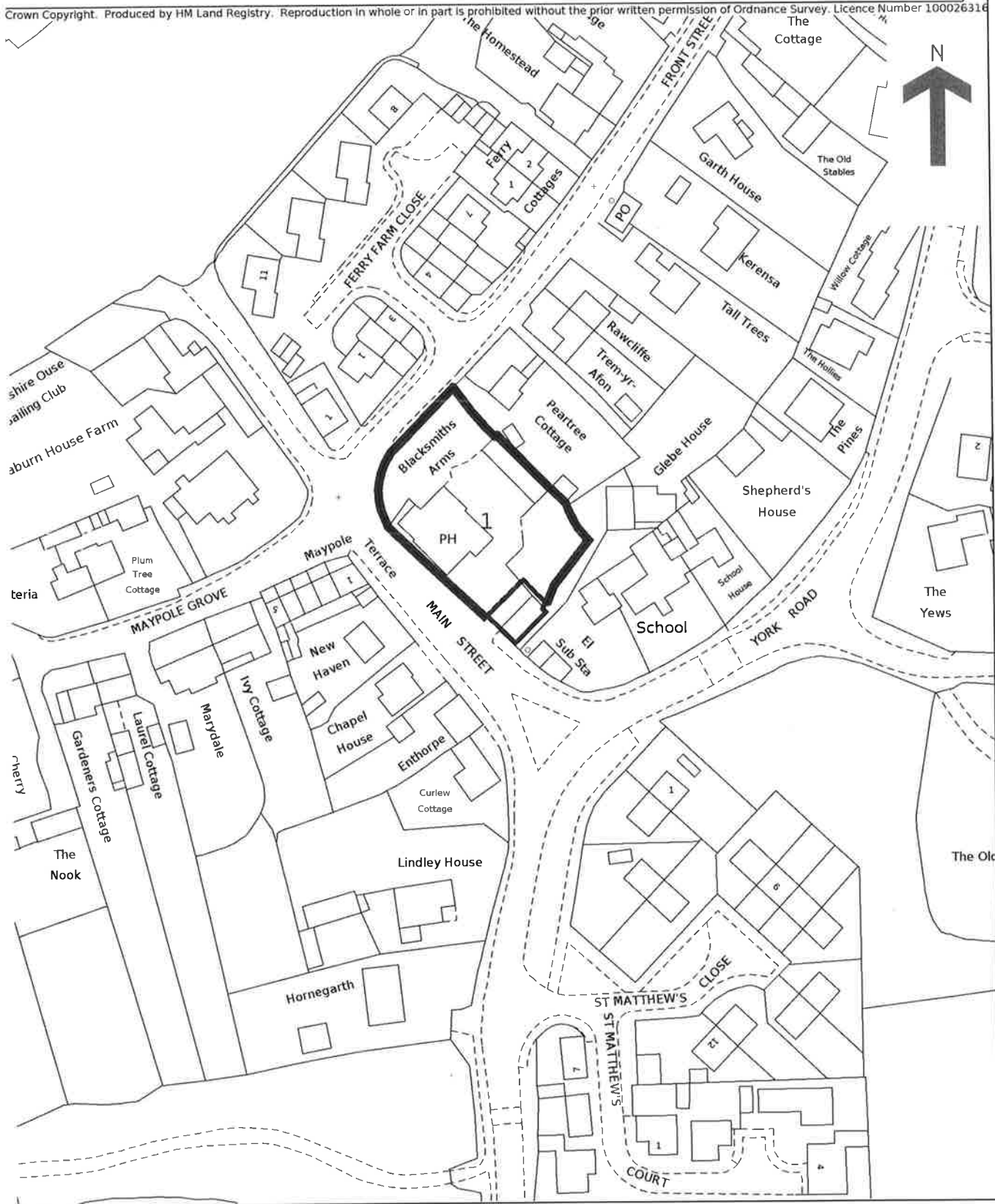
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This official copy is issued on 08 August 2022 shows the state of this title plan on 08 August 2022 at 16:44:29. It is admissible in evidence to the same extent as the original (s.67 Land Registration Act 2002). This title plan shows the general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries. It may be subject to distortions in scale. Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground. This title is dealt with by the HM Land Registry, Durham Office .



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### **Annex 3 - Current list of Assets of Community Value**

1. The Golden Ball Public House, 2 Cromwell Road, York, YO16 6DU - approved 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Renewed on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
2. New Earswick and District Bowls Club, Huntington Road, York, YO32 9PX – approved 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Renewed on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
3. Holgate Allotments, Ashton Lane, Holgate, York, YO24 4LX – approved 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Renewed on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
4. The Swan, Bishopthorpe Road, York, YO23 1JH – approved 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015.
5. The Derwent Arms, 29 Osbaldwick Village, Osbaldwick, YO10 3NP – approved 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Renewed on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
6. The Minster Inn, 24 Marygate, York, YO30 7BH – approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
7. The Wenlock Arms Public House, 73 Main Street, Wheldrake, YO19 6AA – approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
8. Costcutter Shop, 58 Main Street, Wheldrake, York, YO19 6AB – approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
9. Wheldrake Woods (owned by the Forestry Commission), Broad Highway, Wheldrake, YO19 6 – approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
10. The Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn York, YO19 4PN – approved 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
11. Holgate Community Garden and Play Park, Upper St Paul's Terrace, York, YO24 4BS. – approved 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016
12. White Rose House, 79 Main Street, Wheldrake, York, YO19 6AA – approved 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
13. The Grey Horse Public House, Main Street, Elvington, York, YO41 4AA – approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
14. The Deramore Arms Public House, Main Street, Heslington, York, YO10 5EA. – approved 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.
15. The Carlton Tavern Public House, 104 Acomb Road, York, YO24 4HA – approved 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

16. The Royal Oak Public House, 1 Main Street, Copmanthorpe, York, YO23 3ST. – approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
17. The Blue Bell Public House, 53 Fossgate, York, YO1 9TF. – approved 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017.
18. The Old Ebor Public House, 2 Drake Street, York, YO23 1EQ. – approved 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017.
19. New Earswick Swimming Pool, Hawthorne Terrace, New Earswick, YO32 4TZ. - approved 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
20. Strensall Library, 19 The Village, Strensall, York, YO32 5XS. – approved 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
21. The Lord Collingwood Public House, The Green, Upper Poppleton, York, YO26 6DP. – approved 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
22. The Garrison Church of St Wilfrid, St Wilfrid's Road, Strensall, York, YO32 5SJ. – approved 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
23. Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road, Strensall Camp, York, B757RL. – approved 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
24. The Lord Nelson Public House, 9 Main Street. Nether Poppleton , York, YO26 6HS. – approved 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
25. The Blacksmiths Arms Public House, Shipton Road, Skelton, York, YO30 1YJ. – approved 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
26. The car park at rear of the former Murton Arms Public House, Main Street, Murton, York, YO19 5UQ. – approved 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020.



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**Decision Session – Executive Member for  
Finance and Major Projects**

**10 October 2022**

**Report of the Director of Housing Economy and Regeneration**

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund – York Investment Plan**

**Summary**

1. The Government have established a new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) as part of the Levelling Up White Paper, and published the national UKSPF prospectus in April 2022. York has an allocation of funds and City of York Council were required to submit an Investment Plan, developed in partnership with local stakeholders. CYC will be responsible for delivering York's UKSPF funds for the period 2022 to 2025.
2. CYC Executive delegated responsibility to the Corporate Director of Place for the submission of the Investment Plan at its June 2022 meeting. This report presents the content of that Investment Plan, as agreed with the York UKSPF Partnership Board and the Executive Member.
3. Further steps are now required to formally agree the Investment Plan and confirm arrangements for expenditure once Government has agreed the Investment Plan. This paper addresses those issues, together with an outline of expenditure in the current financial year.

**Recommendations**

4. The Executive Member is asked to:
  - i. Endorse the York investment plan and its submission to Government.

Reason: To support the York economy and shared prosperity

- ii. Subject to Government approval of the plan, recommend to Executive that they confirm expenditure in accordance with the plan and delegate the Corporate Director of Place to make allocations, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects and the York UKSPF Partnership Board.

Reason: To support the York economy and shared prosperity

- iii. Following consultation with the York UKSPF Partnership Board, to approve the launch of a call for proposals for financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Reason: To support the York economy and shared prosperity

- iv. Following consultation with the York UKSPF Partnership Board, to delegate the approval and submission of the York Rural Prosperity Fund investment plan to the Corporate Director of Place.

Reason: To support the York rural economy and shared prosperity

## **Background**

5. Following the Government's Levelling Up White Paper published in February 2022 and many previous references to UK SPF as the successor fund for the EU structural funds, the UK Government published the UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus on 13 April 2022.
6. The UKSPF is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda, and provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025. All areas of the UK will receive an allocation from the Fund via a formula. It is intended to help places across the country deliver enhanced outcomes whilst recognising that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support.
7. The fund will allow places to target funding where it is needed most, building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances. Local Authorities, working with stakeholders, will define their own local priorities within the Government's published framework.
8. The UKSPF supports the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
  - Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
  - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
  - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency
9. Beneath the overarching aims set out above, there are three UKSPF investment priorities: Communities and Place; Supporting local business; and People and Skills. There are detailed objectives associated with each of these priorities which are aligned to the relevant Levelling Up missions. Places have discretion to allocate funding across these headings in response to local need. The People and Skills priority is only available in 2024/25, the other two are present throughout the 3 years
10. In September 2022 Government announced a further element of UKSPF funding to address the particular needs of rural communities and businesses. York has been allocated £400,000 for the period 2023 to 2025 for capital spend in rural areas of the authority. There are some additional interventions available, but the priorities are limited to Communities and Place and Local Business Investment.
11. An additional element of the investment plan is required, with a deadline for submission of 30 November 2022. Further details are available [here](#). The Government suggests that the local Partnership Board could guide development of that plan. The Executive Member is asked to extend the approach that was taken for UKSPF and delegate the submission of the investment plan to the Corporate Director of Place.

### **Funding allocation for York**

12. York has been allocated £5,107,510 of UKSPF funding, which includes a fixed 4% of the allocation for CYC to administer the fund, covering legal, finance and staff costs. It split thus:

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Revenue	£555,379	£1,078,527	£2,572,980
Capital	£64,464	£161,160	£675,000

Total	£619,843	£1,239,687	£3,247,980
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13. There is a further allocation of £400,000 capital through the Rural Prosperity Fund, with £100,000 available in 2023/24 and £300,000 in 2024/25.
14. While there is no guarantee of future allocations as this is a consideration for Comprehensive Spending Review 2024, the 2024-25 allocation can be seen as the indicative annual figure for future iterations of the fund. On establishment of the York and North Yorkshire MCA, responsibility for UK SPF will pass to that body.
15. As part of the UKSPF process, lead authorities were asked to establish a local Partnership Board to provide input from public, private and community sector organisations and groups, local Members of Parliament, and other key stakeholders. A York Partnership Board was established in May 2022 and has met twice to inform the development of the Investment Plan. It will continue to meet as the process for establishing the fund develops, and will be consulted when allocations are made.
16. We have established a Partnership Board comprising representatives from:
  - Askham Bryan College
  - Aviva (large local employer)
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - CYC Communities Team
  - CYC Executive Members
  - CYC Public Health
  - DWP
  - Federation of Small Businesses
  - JCP
  - Make It York
  - Police & Crime Commissioner
  - University of York
  - YNY LEP
  - York BID
  - York College
  - York Cultural Leaders Group
  - York CVS

- York Environment Forum
- York St John University
- York MPs

17. This Board is chaired by the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects who has been given delegated responsibility for UKSPF by the Council Executive. The Board has advised on the development of this investment plan and will be a reference group throughout the UKSPF process until March 2025. Beyond that period, responsibility is expected to pass to the Combined Authority, if established next year.

### **Investment Plan**

18. The investment plan was submitted in August 2022 following detailed discussion with the Partnership Board and Executive. It is a high-level plan which allocates the available fund to pre-defined interventions which were set out in Government guidance, each with pre-set output and outcome indicators. Annex A summarises the funding allocations by intervention, while Annex B provides detail on these interventions and the outputs and outcomes which were allocated.
19. Funding is split across 20 interventions which were selected by the Partnership Board to reflect their collective views on the challenges and opportunities that York faces, together with the range of relevant strategies and plans that the City has adopted in recent years. The investment plan is thus based on established needs and commitments for the city, informed by the experience of key stakeholders. The summary of these challenges and opportunities that was submitted as part of the investment plan is also included in Annex B.
20. Following development of the Investment Plan, approval for submission was sought by the Corporate Director of Place, having consulted with the Executive Members for Finance and Major Projects and the Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning. as agreed by Executive in June 2022. The approval of CYC's Section 151 and Chief Operating Officers was also received, as required by Government as part of the submission process.
21. The Investment Plan is currently being reviewed by Government, with a formal response expected in November 2022.

22. The Executive Member is asked to endorse the Investment Plan and to recommend to Executive that they confirm the proposed expenditure in accordance with the Investment Plan and instruct the Corporate Director of Place to make the necessary approvals to enable delivery.

### **2022/23 allocation**

23. As set out above, the allocation includes almost £620k to be spent in the current year. Any money which is not spent this year cannot be carried forward into future years, and it is thus vital that there is a robust and deliverable set of projects which responds to the Investment Plan interventions in 2022/23.
24. The Partnership Board have agreed that CYC will prioritise spend on activities related to improving the city centre and Acomb Front Street in the current year. It is proposed that this will include city centre access work (including dropped kerbs and broader access studies), Acomb Front Street (replacing bollards, redoing signage and improvements to ACO drainage and pavements, improving the external appearance of public toilets), feasibility plan work for future years, and business support work being undertaken by the LEP in York. It is only by focussing on these projects that we will achieve full spend in the current year and avoid the risk of funds being returned to Whitehall.
25. Funds for the current year will be released once the Investment Plan has been agreed, which is expected to be in November or December 2022. Government have made it clear that any funding spent prior to that is undertaken at risk, although spend from April 2022 onwards will be deemed eligible once approval is given.

### **Approach for 2023/24 and 2024/25**

26. At its next meeting, the York UKSPF Partnership Board will consider an action plan for delivery of 2023/24 and 2024/25 allocations. This will include some direct expenditure by CYC, together with an open call for proposals to implement the remaining interventions.
27. The Executive Member is asked to endorse this approach and, subject to agreement with the Partnership Board, begin a call for proposals.



## Consultation

28. York's Investment Plan and detailed proposals are being developed in consultation with the York UKSPF Partnership Board, which includes key stakeholders from the private, public and community sectors, together with MPs, Government Departments and other stakeholders. The role of the Partnership Board is to provide advice and feedback to CYC, which remains the accountable body and ultimate decision maker with regard to UKSPF in York.

## Council Plan

29. UKSPF addresses the following outcomes from the Council Plan:

- Good health and wellbeing;
- Well-paid jobs and an inclusive economy;
- A greener and cleaner city;
- Safe communities and culture for all

## Implications

- **Financial** – The table at paragraph 12 identifies the proposed funding allocations for the council. As the UKSPF is entirely funded from Government there are no new financial commitments to the council. Given the scale of the budgets and to include new schemes into the capital programme the final decision is ultimately for Executive. Should the Executive Member approve the proposed allocations and Government confirm the funding this will be taken forward to the Monitor 2 revenue and capital reports in November for Executive approval to add to the budget.
- **Human Resources (HR)** – no implications;
- **One Planet Council / Equalities** – our work positively supports the Council's equalities objectives;
- **Legal** – no implications arising from submission of the Priority list, but there will be implications should any projects be selected;
- **Crime and Disorder** – no implications;
- **Information Technology (IT)** – no implications;
- **Property** – no direct implications.

## Risk Management

30. As discussed above, while spend from April 2022 onwards will be deemed eligible, until the Investment Plan is approved any spend is at

risk. This presents a challenge, as much of the work proposed will require capital items to be procured in advance of work being undertaken on the public realm.

31. This must be balanced with the risk that we do not spend all of the first year's allocation, leading to funds intended for York being returned to Government.
32. These factors have informed the choice of items for 2022/23 SPF expenditure, as financial prudence requires that capital work does not begin until funding is in place.

### Contact Details

**Author:**

Simon Brereton  
Head of Economy  
[simon.brereton@york.gov.uk](mailto:simon.brereton@york.gov.uk)

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Tracey Carter  
Director of Housing Economy and  
Regeneration

**Report**  **Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
**Approved**

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

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Background Papers:

#### Annexes

Annex A: Investment Plan summary

Annex B: Detailed list of investment plan items

### List of Abbreviations Used in this Report

UKSPF – UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Intervention	Capital 22/23	Revenue 22/23	Capital 23/24	Revenue 23/24	Capital 24/25	Revenue 24/25	TOTAL
E1: Improvements to town centres & high streets	£64,464	£360,536	£161,160	£138,840	£375,000	-	£1,100,000
E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities	-	-	-	£50,000	-	£50,000	£100,000
E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects	-	-	-	£50,000	-	£100,000	£150,000
E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups	-	-	-	£50,000	-	£75,000	£125,000
E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living	-	£25,000	-	£75,000	-	£75,000	£175,000
E14: Relevant feasibility studies	-	£15,000	-	£15,000	-	£15,000	£45,000
<b>Communities and Place Total</b>	<b>£64,464</b>	<b>£400,536</b>	<b>£161,160</b>	<b>£378,840</b>	<b>£375,000</b>	<b>£315,000</b>	<b>£1,695,000</b>
E16: Open markets & town centre retail & service sector	-	-	-	£50,000	-	£150,000	£200,000
E22: Enterprise infrastructure & employment / innovation sites	-	-	-	-	£300,000	£182,980	£482,980
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	-	-	-	-	-	£50,000	£50,000
E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators	-	£130,000	-	£250,000	-	£350,000	£730,000
E26: Growing the local social economy	-	-	-	£50,000	-	£50,000	£100,000
E29: Supporting decarbonisation & improving natural environment	-	-	-	£50,000	-	£150,000	£200,000
E31: Support relevant feasibility studies	-	£24,843	-	£24,687	-	£25,000	£74,530
<b>Local Business Interventions Total</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£154,843</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£424,687</b>	<b>£300,000</b>	<b>£957,980</b>	<b>£1,837,510</b>
E33: Employment support for economically inactive people				£275,000	-	£450,000	£725,000
E35: Enrichment & volunteering activities					-	£100,000	£100,000
E36: Increase levels of digital inclusion, essential digital skills					-	£100,000	£100,000
E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses					-	£50,000	£50,000
E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs					-	£300,000	£300,000
E39: Green skills courses					-	£200,000	£200,000
E41: Funding to support local digital skills					-	£100,000	£100,000
<b>People &amp; Skills Intervention Total</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£275,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£1,300,000</b>	<b>£1,575,000</b>
<b>Rural Prosperity Fund</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£100,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£300,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£400,000</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>£64,464</b>	<b>£555,379</b>	<b>£261,160</b>	<b>£1,078,527</b>	<b>£975,000</b>	<b>£2,572,980</b>	<b>£5,507,510</b>

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## **ANNEX B**

### **Introduction**

This document sets out the strategic framework and interventions selected for the York UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, the allocations of funding proposed and the outputs and outcomes offered in York's submission to Government in August 2022. These are currently being considered by the DHLUC programme team, with approval anticipated in November 2022.

Each section then provides a commentary on the funding and an indication of the expected route for delivery. Interventions are presented under the three priority areas of Communities and Place, Local Business Investment and People and Skills. For each priority, the section begins with a summary of the key challenges and opportunities which have then informed the choice of interventions. This prioritisation was undertaken by the York UKSPF Partnership Board in May and June 2022. These challenges and opportunities sections formed part of the submission made to UK Government.

## COMMUNITIES AND PLACE

### Challenges

Our challenges under this priority are summarised in recent work on:

- [Community Hubs](#)
- [Health & Wellbeing Strategy](#)
- [Police & Crime Plan](#)
- [Addressing Violence against Women and Girls Strategy](#)
- Financial Inclusion Steering Group Initiatives
- Digital Inclusion Strategy
- [My City Centre action plan](#)
- [Acomb Front Street plan](#)
- [Inclusive Growth Evidence Base](#)

York is an expensive city to live in, due to relatively high housing costs. We have high levels of employment and economic activity, including higher than average levels of full time and part time working and self-employment. For those without higher level skills and qualifications, employment options are focussed on lower paying sectors such as hospitality, retail and social care. So, despite strong employment and relatively high wages, York has enduring issues of deprivation and poverty, with life expectancy in the most deprived areas being more than 10 years lower than in the most prosperous neighbourhood.

This leads to the following challenges:

- Reducing poverty/ deprivation/ debt/ mitigating impacts of cost of living crisis:
  - Growing skills and employability
  - Increasing volunteering
  - Increasing community capacity/development
  - Enabling retail and hospitality businesses to improve their employment offer and making it safer and easier for workers in those sectors to get to and from work
- Improving Health & wellbeing/addressing life expectancy gap
  - Social isolation
  - Growing mental health crisis
  - Early intervention and prevention

Like all high streets and retail areas, York's city centre and secondary shopping areas need to adapt to remain vibrant. We have much higher than usual levels of shop vacancies (around double the levels seen pre-COVID), and much work is required to adapt our medieval streets to modern patterns of outdoor dining and leisure while installing the hostile vehicle measures needed in the modern age. This has led to particular challenges around wheelchair accessibility and high-profile media campaigns highlighting the problems that blue badge holders face in accessing the historic core of the city. Beyond the city centre, our secondary shopping areas must adapt to a changing balance of retail, leisure and residential uses, and recent studies have shown what residents would like to see for the Acomb and Haxby shopping areas.

- How we maintain a vibrant city centre and increase/maintain the footfall to support shops, decrease empty buildings and create jobs
- How do we drive footfall and improve the vibrancy of the secondary shopping areas i.e. Acomb and Haxby, to enhance sustainability and economic growth.

Making our medieval city safe through Counter Terrorism Security measures.

### **Opportunities**

The studies and strategies listed above have identified a range of opportunities under the Communities and Place priority.

Our work on developing community hubs in partnership with the third sector was a central plank of COVID support and recovery and we wish to extend our use of these locations and to build on the work of our Ward Committee network. Both initiatives include existing practice in local grant making and in working with local communities and their associations. There are community cohesion and anti-racism initiatives, work to challenge poverty and deprivation, digital inclusion programmes, social prescribing work and many other projects which would fit well with the priorities of UKSPF.

We have two Community Renewal Fund projects currently running under this priority – Archaeology on Prescription and Street Life – that are delivering well and might be suitable for continuation funding.

In our city centre and secondary shopping areas, we have identified opportunities to create new public spaces to support family and cultural

activities and options to make it easier and cheaper for others to use existing spaces for community and cultural events that would enhance the vibrancy of our retail areas. We know that in the city centre we need to improve accessibility through more dropped kerbs, improved surfaces and seating and better facilities for disabled people; and by embedding dementia and autism friendly standards. We also need to improve hostile vehicle measures to make the centre safer.

In the secondary shopping areas, we want to work with businesses to improve the public realm, increase awareness of the opportunities and potential impact of utilising the outdoor space adjacent to their businesses and install gateway signs.

Working with our retail and hospitality sectors, we want to find ways to improve safety for workers as they travel to and from work, particularly after late shifts and at the weekend

### **Interventions selected**

E1: Improvements to town centres & high streets

E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities

E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects

E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups

E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living

E14: Relevant feasibility studies.

### **E1: Improvements to town centres & high streets**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£1,100,000	22%	£425,000	£300,000	£375,000

### Outputs:

Amount of public realm created or improved (m2)	2000
Number of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed (numerical value)	5
Number of decarbonisation plans developed (numerical value)	3
Sqm of land made wheelchair accessible/step free (m2)	2000



Outcomes:

Increased footfall (% increase)	5
Increased visitor numbers (% increase)	2
Reduced vacancy rates (% decreased)	1
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility (% increase)	10
Improved perception of facilities/amenities (% increase)	10

Responding to the needs identified in My City Centre and the Acomb Front Street and Haxby Shopping Area studies, this allocation provides funds for capital work to improve the attractiveness and performance of our key retail areas. The work will be delivered by CYC and steered by the public consultation which has underpinned the three studies. With the overall aim of improving footfall and experience, the funding will help improve public space and its accessibility and support the three areas to reduce their carbon footprints.

Delivery route: CYC

**E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£100,000	2%	-	£50,000	£50,000

Outputs:

Number of local events or activities supported (numerical value)	6
Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready (numerical value)	20
Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value)	100

Outcomes:

Increased footfall (% increase)	5
Increased visitor numbers (% increase)	2

Improved perception of facilities/amenities (% increase)	10
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support (numerical value)	6

Guided by the York Cultural Strategy, this allocation will form part of the open call for projects. It will support new or expanded events, fairs and festivals, helping to grow trading and volunteering activities and contributing to improved experiences and perceptions of the city centre.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

### **E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£150,000	3%	-	£50,000	£100,000

#### Outputs:

Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	10
Number of local events or activities supported (numerical value)	5
Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value)	200
Number of projects (numerical value)	8

#### Outcomes:

Volunteering numbers as a result of support (numerical value)	200
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Members of the Partnership Board were keen to include a strand supporting increased volunteering, particularly where that would help to target corporate volunteering on agreed social issues in York. This allocation will be part of the call for proposals and will aim to develop 200 volunteering opportunities across a range of organisations as set out in the outputs and outcomes.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

### **E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£125,000	2%	-	£50,000	£75,000

Outputs:

Number of organisations receiving grants (numerical value)	10
Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	24
Number of people attending training sessions (numerical value)	160

Outcomes:

Improved engagement numbers (% increase)	15
Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support (numerical value)	3

VCSE partners have called for investment at community level to support local resilience and financial sustainability. This intervention will provide support and training for community organisations to help them secure grant funding from other sources and develop their capacity.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

### **E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£175,000	3%	£25,000	£75,000	£75,000

Outputs:

Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	5
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Number of households receiving support (numerical value)	200
Number of households supported to take energy efficiency measures (numerical value)	100
Number of people reached (numerical value)	1000

Outcomes:

Increased take up of energy efficiency measures (% increase)	10
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In the current cost of living crisis, the need to provide sound advice to residents on how to reduce their energy bills through efficiency measures is heightened. This intervention is designed to establish a programme of neighbourhood energy advice and support households to undertake measures identified in that advice, leading to 10% of those households advised implementing measures.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

**E14: Relevant feasibility studies**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£45,000	1%	£15,000	£15,000	£15,000

Outputs:

Number of feasibility studies supported (numerical value)	12
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Outcomes:

Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies (% increase)	20
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Under the Community and Place priority, there is an expectation that community and voluntary organisations will develop projects suitable for UKSPF and other funding. There is currently a lack of expertise in the sector in terms of developing projects that are funding ready, and this intervention will provide support to work with VCSE organisations and

provide technical support to ensure that their proposals have the level of detail and evidence that is required for success in attracting funding.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals or CYC delivery (tbc)

## LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT

### Challenges

Our challenges under this priority are summarised in the following strategies and studies:

- [Draft Economic Strategy 2022-32](#)
- [York & North Yorkshire LEP plan for growth](#)

When current EU funding concludes in March 2023, our existing Growth Hub will be left without funds. We need to continue this service, and have had extensive feedback from business associations that we need to extend delivery to include B2C business models, enabling retail, hospitality and the consumer service sectors to be supported. These sectors are particularly important in York.

The cost of living challenges for individuals and families is matched with a cost of doing business crisis for small businesses, and we need to extend some of our innovative approaches for business support in the pandemic to provide further assistance through the coming years. The impact of rising fuel prices highlights the challenge of helping businesses to adapt to the problems of climate change and to reduce their carbon footprints.

We know that our high-growth sectors such as rail, bio-tech, tech/digital and creative media are lacking targeted support and we want to extend our growth hub offer to provide some bespoke assistance for these businesses.

There is little start-up support currently available for the 1,000 or so businesses that start each year in York. There are also challenges in securing affordable startup and growth space in York, with a need for intervention to ensure that employment sites are not lost to residential uses, further growing this challenge.

### Opportunities

Through the COVID pandemic we have worked hard as a city to bring together our institutions, business associations and business leaders to find collective solutions that work in York. We have strong HE/FE links, a very successful Business Improvement District (BID), networks of local traders and a city-wide Indie York movement, and active Federation of Small Business and Chamber of Commerce organisations. We wish to

build on these links to provide better support to the business community in York with a particular focus on small and micro businesses. We have developed a weekly newsletter which goes to over 2,000 local businesses, and see opportunities to extend this approach.

With the end of ERDF funding for our Growth Hub, we have an opportunity to refocus support on small and micro businesses, and to extend the offer to B2C business models. We know that businesses who receive early stage support are shown to have a higher likelihood of surviving and thriving, and wish to increase startup support. In COVID, we innovated using ARG funds and developed a local voucher scheme which enabled 130 York businesses to give support to a further 450 small and micro enterprises, building a local support market which we can now build upon.

The development of York Central, together with the recent refurbishment of York's Guildhall (now operated by University of York as a business hub), provides an opportunity to create new startup and growth space for businesses in York. Working with local developers, we believe there is an opportunity to kick-start a market response to the provision of flexible space which will underpin economic growth

### **Interventions selected**

E16: Open markets & town centre retail & service sector

E22: Enterprise infrastructure & employment / innovation sites

E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems

E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators

E26: Growing the local social economy

E29: Supporting decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy

E31: Support relevant feasibility studies

### **E16: Open markets & town centre retail & service sector**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£200,000	4%	-	£50,000	£150,000

Outputs:

Number of local markets supported (numerical value)	3
Number of businesses receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	30

Outcomes:

Increased footfall (% increase)	2
Increased visitor numbers (% increase)	3
Improved perception of markets (% increase)	5
Increased number of businesses supported (% increase)	20

The particular challenges of the retail and hospitality sectors in York are highlighted elsewhere. This intervention focusses on the outdoor market offer, which can provide a first step on the business journey for such businesses and is also a key attraction for customers across the city centre.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

**E22: Enterprise infrastructure & employment / innovation sites**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£482,980	9%	-	-	£482,980

Outputs:

Number of commercial buildings developed or improved (numerical value)	1
M2 of commercial buildings developed or improved (m2)	15000
Number of rehabilitated premises (numerical value)	1

Outcomes:

Increased amount of investment (£)	3000000
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity (numerical value)	1



There is an established need for affordable and flexible facilities for early stage businesses across York, and this intervention seeks to help bring forward new facilities for this market. It is envisaged that the funding will support the development of a new facility through the conversion or refurbishment of existing space, with the funding provided in Year 3 and predominantly as capital.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals or CYC (tbc)

### **E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£50,000	1%	-	-	£50,000

#### Outputs:

Number of businesses receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	250
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#### Outcomes:

Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm (numerical value)	25
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As noted above, there is a general low level of support for start-up businesses and entrepreneurship in York. This intervention will help address that shortage, and the outputs and outcomes point towards a programme of workshops and networking.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals or CYC (tbc)

### **E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£730,000	14%	£130,000	£250,000	£350,000

#### Outputs:

Number of businesses receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	200
Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready (numerical value)	150

Outcomes:

Jobs created (numerical value)	50
Jobs safeguarded (numerical value)	75
Number of new businesses created (numerical value)	25
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm (numerical value)	25

This intervention will provide support for York's participation in the York and North Yorkshire Growth Hub, together with investment to continue our innovative work on voucher schemes and self-help in the micro business community.

Delivery route: CYC

**E26: Growing the local social economy**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£100,000	2%	-	£50,000	£50,000

Outputs:

Number of businesses receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	25
Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready (numerical value)	25

Outcomes:

Jobs created (numerical value)	15
Number of new businesses created (numerical value)	15
Increased amount of investment (£)	£500,000

Specific support for social enterprise and the social economy is also a big gap in current provision, and this intervention will help contribute in that area. The outputs and outcomes suggest a programme of outreach and one-to-one support to help social enterprises secure investment and grow their delivery.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

### **E29: Supporting decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£200,000	4%	-	£50,000	£150,000

#### Outputs:

Number of businesses receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	100
Number of decarbonisation plans developed (numerical value)	75

#### Outcomes:

Jobs safeguarded (numerical value)	15
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity (numerical value)	10
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes (numerical value)	10
Greenhouse gas reductions (% decrease in Tonnes of Co2e)	5%

The importance of working with businesses to reduce carbon usage in York is clear from our Climate Change Strategy. This intervention provides scope to increase the amount of advice available and work with businesses to plan and implement changes in processes and technologies which will support decarbonisation.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

**E31: Support relevant feasibility studies**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£74,530	1%	£24,843	£24,687	£25,000

Outputs:

Number of feasibility studies supported (numerical value)	25
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Outcomes:

Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies (% increase)	10
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To ensure that workable solutions are developed in response to the UKSPF interventions, this item will support the Regeneration Team to work with potential applicants on feasibility studies and business cases.

Delivery route: CYC

## PEOPLE AND SKILLS

### Challenges

Our challenges under this theme are fully covered in our recently published [10-Year Skills Strategy](#), which was developed by a cross-sector partnership and is now overseen by our independent [Skills Board](#).

The challenges set out in that strategy are as follows:

- We have an ageing population, and this is leading to a lack of skills as people retire from the workforce more quickly and in larger numbers than people can be trained or recruited.
- Current models of training and employment do not always support people to fulfil their potential e.g. those with disabilities, low skills attainment, caring responsibilities, neurodiversity.
- There is a lack of employer engagement and understanding of benefits of training/skills support.
- The demand for digital skills at all levels outstrips supply.
- Lack of timely and localised Information, Advice and Guidance for inactives and those in work.
- Lack of support for career changers (i.e. training for new skills beyond the interests of the current employer)

### Opportunities

The opportunities set out in the strategy can be summarised as follows:

- Build on existing work through third sector partners on ESF
- Pioneering partnerships – putting businesses closer to the heart of skills planning.
- Community outreach providing a gateway to upskilling and reskilling opportunities.
- Growth in key sectors such as rail and construction with high demand for staff.
- Improve progression routes from entry level to higher level skills/training in priority sectors
- Technology offers innovation to traditional industries and opportunities for entrepreneurship among a wider group of people.

- Better align careers education information, advice and guidance with York's labour market
- Implement a boot-camp approach to support career changers

### Interventions selected

E33: Employment support for economically inactive people

E35: Enrichment & volunteering activities

E36: Increase levels of digital inclusion, essential digital skills

E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses

E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs

E39: Green skills courses

E41: Local digital skills

### E33: Employment support for economically inactive people

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£725,000	14%	-	£275,000	£450,000

### Outputs:

Number of economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services (numerical value)	200
Number of economically inactive people supported to engage with the benefits system (numerical value)	40
Number of people accessing mental and physical health support leading to employment (numerical value)	40
Number of people supported to engage in job-searching (numerical value)	35
Number of people receiving support to gain employment (numerical value)	40
Effective working between keyworkers and additional services (number of engagements)	40

### Outcomes:

Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support (numerical value)	40
Number of people in supported employment (numerical value)	20
Number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services (numerical value)	10
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support (numerical value)	40
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support (numerical value)	20
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months (numerical value)	15

This intervention provides continuation funding in 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the Access Towards Inclusion project which is currently funded through the European Structural Investment Funds, with an additional allocation in 2024-25 to enable some new outreach work. ATI supports a network of organisations across York to engage with out-of-work residents and help them move towards the labour market.

Delivery route: Direct commission (Better Connect for ATI network) and open call for proposals (£175k in 2024-25)

### **E35: Enrichment & volunteering activities**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£100,000	2%	-	-	£100,000

#### Outputs:

Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value)	50
Number of people taking part in work experience programmes (numerical value)	25

#### Outcomes:

Number of people experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision (numerical value)	20
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Number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace (numerical value)	20
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The role of volunteering and work experience in helping people to overcome barriers to work is well established. In York, initiatives such as social prescribing are already making a big difference and this funding seeks to continue such activity.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

### **E36: Increase levels of digital inclusion, essential digital skills**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total UKSPF Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£100,000	2%	-	-	£100,000

Outputs:

Number of people supported to engage in life skills (numerical value)	50
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Outcomes:

Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support (numerical value)	40
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This intervention will support basic and essential digital skills and seek to reduce digital exclusion through skills and training.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

### **E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
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£50,000	1%	-	-	£50,000
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Outputs:

Number of people retraining (numerical value)	12
Number of people in employment engaging with the skills system (numerical value)	12

Outcomes:

Number of people gaining qualifications, licences and skills (numerical value)	12
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The ability of people currently in work to access retraining opportunities is very limited. This intervention will provide some targeted retraining to enable new applicants to priority industries in York.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

**E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£300,000	6%	-	-	£300,000

Outputs:

Number of people receiving support to gain a vocational licence (numerical value)	50
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Outcomes:

Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support (numerical value)	25
Number of people in education/training (numerical value)	25

Targeting for this intervention will be guided by the York Skills Board.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

**E39: Green skills courses**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£200,000	4%	-	-	£200,000

Outputs:

Number of people receiving support to gain employment (numerical value)	36
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support (numerical value)	24

Outcomes:

Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support (numerical value)	12
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support (numerical value)	24

Current research is exploring the future needs of green industries in York, and this intervention will provide resources to support the growth of such industries by providing trained candidates and employees.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

#### **E41: Local digital skills**

UKSPF Allocation	% of Total Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£100,000	2%	-	-	£100,000

#### Outputs:

Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support (numerical value)	20
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#### Outcomes:

Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support (numerical value)	20
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While E36 addresses essential digital skills, this intervention focusses on higher level skills. Initial thinking is that this would support potential digital specialists to upgrade their technical skills to meet identified skills gaps from employers. Detailed delivery would be guided by the York Skills Board.

Delivery route: Open call for proposals

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