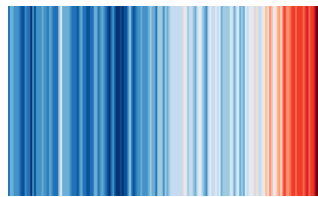


**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL
SUMMONS**

All Councillors, relevant Council Officers and other interested parties and residents are formally invited to attend a meeting of the **City of York Council** at **The Citadel, Gillygate, York, YO31 7EA** to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Thursday, 21 September 2023 at 6.30 pm



A G E N D A

1. **Declarations of Interest**

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

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

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

Type of Interest

You must:

*Disclosable
Pecuniary Interests*

Disclose the interest; not participate the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

*Other Registrable
Interests (Directly
Related)*

OR

*Non-Registrable
Interests (Directly
Related)*

Disclose the interest; speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

*Other Registrable
Interests (Affects)*

OR

*Non-Registrable
Interests (Affects)*

*Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate, and vote unless the matter affects the financial interest or well-being:
(a) to a greater extent than it affect financial interests of a majority of inhabitants of the affected*

ward; and
(b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest,
in which case speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting, unless you have a dispensation.

- (2) *Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (3) *Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 38)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Special Council meeting and the Ordinary Council meeting held on 20 July 2023.

3. Civic Announcements

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

4. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, any member of the public who has registered to address the Council, or to ask a Member of the Council a question, on a matter directly relevant to the business of the Council or the City, may do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Tuesday, 19 September 2023.**

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact Democratic Services.

Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

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

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

5. Petitions

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

- (i) Cllr Hollyer, regarding opposing cuts to the ward committee budgets.

6. Report of Executive Leader, Questions, and Executive Recommendations (Pages 39 - 44)

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

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Executive	14 September 2023 https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=13930&Ver=4	Minute 24: Approval of the Council Plan 2023-2027 <i>(To follow)</i>
Executive	14 September 2023 https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.a	Minute 28: Capital Programme Monitor 1 <i>(To follow)</i>

[spx?CId=733&M
Id=13930&Ver=4](https://www.york.gov.uk/council/committees/2022-23/13930)

7. **Report of Deputy Leader and Questions** (Pages 45 - 46)
To receive and consider a written report from the Deputy Leader and, to question the Deputy Leader thereon.
8. **Motions on Notice**
To consider the following Motions on Notice under Standing Order B13:

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

- (i) From Cllr Kent

Improving York's Air Quality

"Council notes:

- recent scientific research backing the World Health Organization (WHO's) updated 2021 Global Air Quality Guidelines on air quality;
- the research on particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), ozone, nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide making clear the overwhelming body of evidence accumulated over the past two decades demonstrates the damaging health effects of air pollution at every level of exposure, affecting nearly all organ systems of the human body; and the importance of implementing measures to reduce average exposures of all people to maximise health benefits.
- the UK government's recently published new air quality strategy for England <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-air-quality-strategy-for-england>, laying out a strategic framework for local authorities and other partners, and setting out their powers, responsibilities, and the further actions the government expects them to take;

- air quality is considered by the UK Government to be “the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK” “with children, the elderly and the already vulnerable most affected”; Public Health England (2019) estimated there are 28-36,000 premature deaths a year in the UK attributable to human made air pollution (pro-rata for York circa 85 -130 deaths a year):
- poor air quality also has consequences for crop yields and, particularly in the case of ammonia and oxides of nitrogen (NOx), significant impacts for the natural environment and biodiversity;
- the UK Government’s new air quality targets for England as much less stringent than the WHO’s health-based targets;
- Research published in 2022 that demonstrates the WHO interim target for air quality could be achieved across most of the UK by 2030 (<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/school-public-health/environmental-research-group/research/modelling/pathway-to-who/>).
- local authorities’ duties around air quality and work in recent years including the very welcome ‘Air Map’ in York showing street exposure to 5 different pollutants with effects across the city (see <https://yorkairmap.org/>);

York’s last 5 year Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP3) expired in December 2020 and Council believes it now needs to fulfil its statutory duty to adopt a new AQAP given on-going health-damaging exceedances of the UK annual NO2 limits in parts of the city centre, largely relating to high traffic levels on main roads and the effects of building enclosure, notably in Gillygate.

This Council resolves to request Executive:

- urgently completes and consults on a draft Air Quality Action Plan 4 in parallel with the emerging draft Local Transport Plan 4, taking into account the Council’s Climate

Change and Health and Well-being strategies given the significant inter-relationships for some key pollutants;

- includes within this work the WHO principle of progressively reducing average exposures to air pollution in York and to set its own interim WHO-based targets for pollutants within the authority's influence, such as PM10 and NO2.
- ensures York prioritises actions that will end exceedances of the current English statutory air quality targets as soon as possible within the AQAP 4 period;
- Works together with York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and other counterparts to address regional sources of air pollution.

and Council resolves in writing, with copies to York's MPs, to call for the Government to:

- adopt site-specific targets with the aim of improving air quality in vulnerable locations such as schools, hospitals, care homes, sites of special scientific interest and similar other ecologically vulnerable sites;
- address the shortcomings of the National Planning Policy Framework and Building regulations with respect to air pollution from buildings including construction projects, gas boilers, solid fuel fires and stoves, from poor ventilation of buildings and from the impact on air quality of transport emissions associated with new developments and from agricultural practices;
- address the shortcomings in other legislation with regard to household furnishing, cleaning and other products used in residential and workplace settings which can adversely affect indoor air quality."

(ii) From Cllr Widdowson

Green waste collection

“Council notes that:

- The Executive intends to explore the potential for generating income through charging for all green waste collection, with the suggestion of a charge of £43.50 per household per year
- Such a charge would in effect represent a 2.5% increase in council tax for Band C household
- It is estimated by officers that between 45% and 75% of households will give up their green bin rather than pay a charge for collection
- In the York Labour 2023 local election manifesto there was no mention of exploring the introduction of charging for all green waste collection
- When Labour were last in power in York (2011 to 2015) there were plans to introduce charging for all green waste collection, but following Labour’s defeat in the 2015 council elections, these plans were reversed through the July 2015 emergency budget implemented by the Conservative / Liberal Democrat administration

Council believes that:

- At a time when many households are struggling with the cost of living crisis, the imposition of a regressive tax on green waste collection would be inappropriate
- The imposition of charging would be at odds with the council’s plans to tackle climate change – for example there would be a likely increase in green waste being burnt, or being flytipped, or being transported across the city in private vehicles to household waste disposal sites, all of which would have adverse environmental consequences
- No thought appears to have been given to the impacts of a significant reduction in the amount of separated green waste being collected and more of it being disposed of through the general waste stream

Council resolves that:

The Executive is to instruct officers to immediately cease any work on exploring the potential for generating income through charging for all green waste collection.”

(iii) From Cllr Myers

Get Me Home Safely

“Council notes:

- shift work is widespread in many industries, particularly hospitality, as well as health and care workers, retail, cleaning, security and porter staff and can often entail late-night working;
- many workers, especially women, are increasingly worried about their safety travelling to and from work at night.

Council believes that:

- while employers may feel their duty of care to staff ends when an employee finishes a shift, they also need to take into consideration journeys home, especially during unsocial hours;
- the weakness of enforcement of the law against sexual assault, including up-skirting, on public transport is appalling with only 2% of victims going on to report sexual harassment;
- Unite the union’s ‘Get Me Home Safely’ campaign, which calls on employers to take all reasonable steps to ensure workers are able to get home safely from work at night, is greatly needed and should be supported;
- Greater numbers of trained staff and stronger enforcement of the law against sexual assault and harassment on public transport are urgently needed.

Council resolves to:

- Fully support Unite's "Get me Home Safely" campaign;
- Request that through the Purple Flag Working Group, officers work with partners to help implement the aims of this campaign;
- Ask the Licensing Committee to undertake policy consultation work on encouraging licence holders to offer free transport to workers for getting home safely after 11pm, with a view to this recommendation being added under 'Night-time safety' provisions when the Statement of Licensing Policy is next reviewed;
- Support the introduction of legal requirements for training transport workers on preventing gender-based violence, sexual assault and harassment on public transport and private hire vehicles;
- Publicly call for improvement to late night and off-peak transport service provision to provide extra night services, as well as work with employers to discuss funding for supplementary taxi travel;
- Publicly call for the lowering of bus fares and opposition to any cuts to public transport funding and write to our two Members of Parliament to outline the Council's support for the Get Me Home Safely campaign and ask them to use their positions to achieve these aims and resolutions;
- Publicly call for the municipal ownership of buses in order to lower prices and improve service provision, especially for night-time and off-peak services;
- Make representation to appropriate sub-regional and national government to bring forward national minimum standards for taxis and private hire, as per the recommendations of the 2018 national Task and Finish Group, and in support of this motion and its demands on behalf of our local community."

(iv) From Cllr Fenton

Supporting people living with epilepsy

“Council notes that:

- Research carried out by the Office for National Statistics shows that just over a third (34%) of people who identified epilepsy as their “main” health condition are in employment and that the only people that have a lower employment rate are those people who have “mental illness or other nervous disorders” (29%) and “severe or specific learning difficulties” (18%)
- By comparison, the overall rate of employment in the UK is around 76%. This means that just over three quarters of working age people have a job and people with epilepsy are more than twice as likely to be out of work than the national average
- Research carried out by the Trades Union Congress shows that people with epilepsy in work are paid on average 11.8% less than non-disabled workers
- Epilepsy Action is campaigning to change attitudes of employers and improve the employment support available to people with epilepsy

Council believes that:

- The low rate of employment for people with epilepsy is very concerning, given that there are very few jobs someone with epilepsy cannot do
- No one living with epilepsy should be discriminated against in hiring processes and in employment
- Increased knowledge about epilepsy can make a huge difference to people with the condition, and their ability to find and stay in work
- By taking simple steps to help support people with epilepsy, employers can help to create a more inclusive workplace

Council resolves to:

- Request that the Executive Members in whose portfolios Economy and Inclusion sit to use all available opportunities to engage with groups such as the Federation of Small Businesses, Chambers of Commerce, York BID, Hospitality Association York and the York High Street Forum to raise awareness with employers about what more they can do to support people living with epilepsy in work
- Request that the Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion ensures that City of York Council is doing all that it can to be an employer that supports current and potential future staff who live with epilepsy.”

9. Questions to the Leader or Executive Members

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

10. Report of Executive Member (Pages 47 - 66)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education, and to question the Executive Member thereon, in accordance with Standing Orders B9 and B10.

11. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee (Pages 67 - 68)

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

12. Hessay Parish Council - Use of Reserve Powers of Principal Council (Pages 69 - 74)

This report invites Council to consider the appointment of Councillors Anne Hook and Emilie Knight to Hessay Parish Council under powers conferred by S91 of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the Parish Council becomes quorate and can continue to function.

13. Appointments and Changes to Membership (Pages 75 - 76)

To consider the appointments and changes to membership of

committees and outside bodies set out on the list attached to this summons.

14. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer

Louise Cook

Contact details:

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

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)

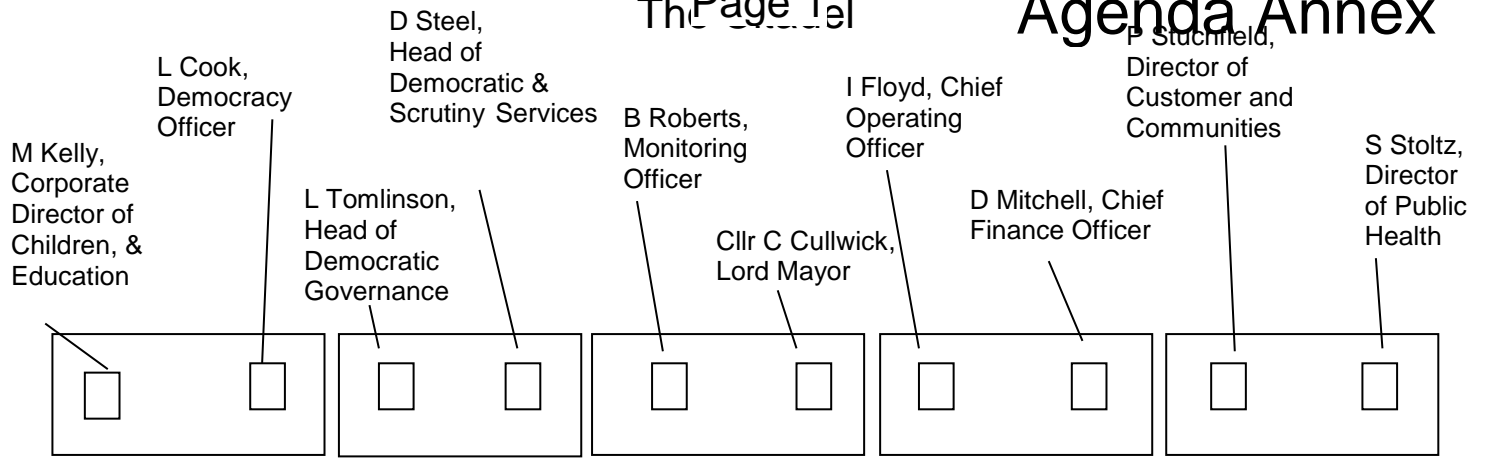
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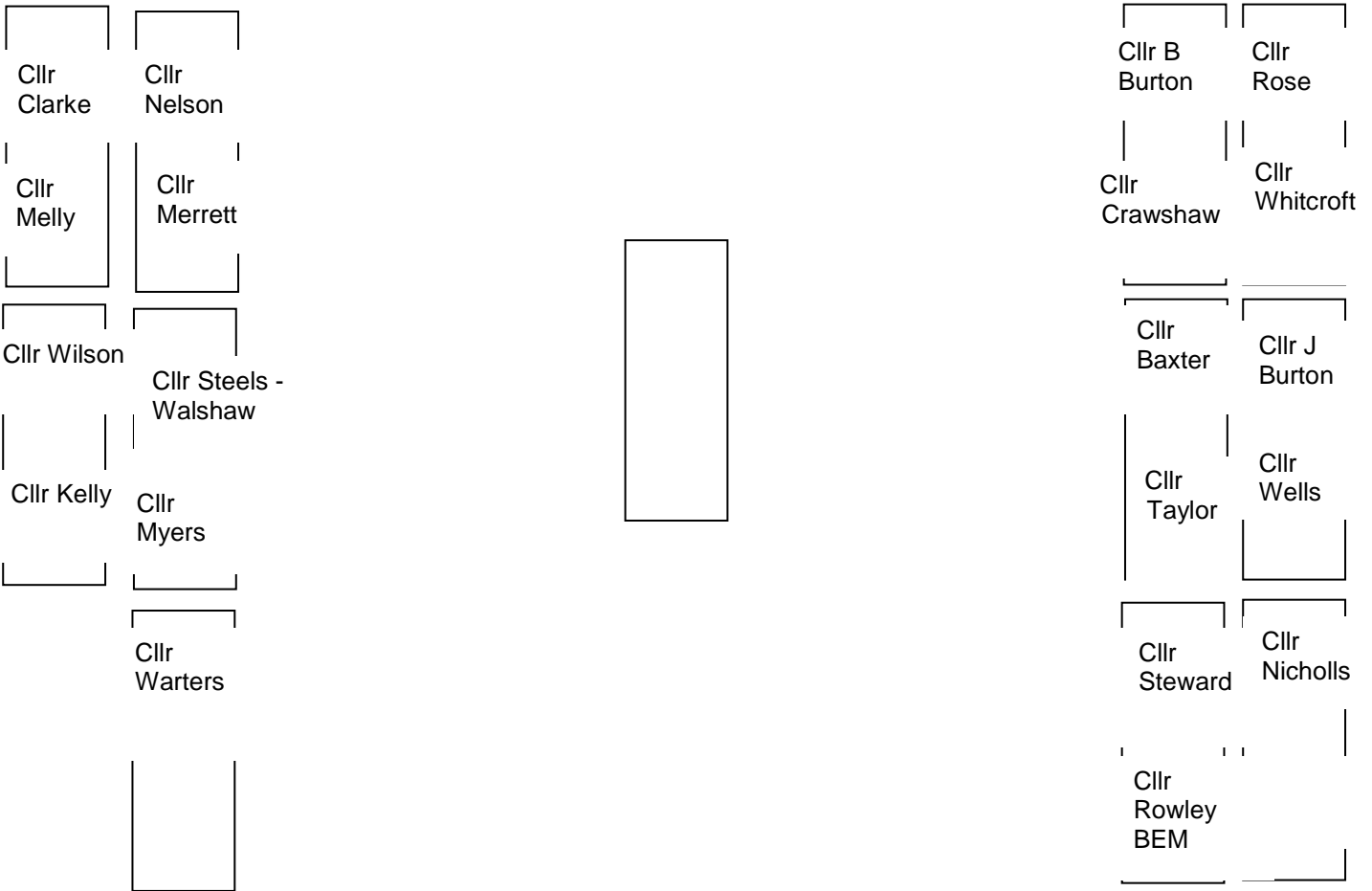
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Clr Kent	Clr Ravilious	Clr Pavlovic	Clr Kilbane	Clr Douglas	Clr Lomas	Clr Coles	Clr Webb
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Clr Hook	Clr Cuthbertson	Clr Smallley	Clr Runciman	Clr Waller	Clr Healey	Clr Ayre	Clr Widdowson	Clr Fenton	Clr Mason
Clr Fisher	Clr Orrell	Clr Pearson	Clr Hollyer	Clr Wann	Clr Vassie	Clr Knight	Clr Waudby		

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City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held at West Offices, York on Thursday, 20 July 2023, starting at 6.00 pm

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

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

Hull Road Ward

Baxter
Kelly
Pavlovic

Huntington and New Earswick
Ward

Orrell

Micklegate Ward

J Burton
Crawshaw
Kilbane

Osbaldwick and Derwent Ward

Rowley BEM
Warters

Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward

Waudby

Rural West York Ward

Hook
Knight

Strensall Ward

Fisher
Healey

Westfield Ward

Coles
Nelson
Waller

Wheldrake Ward

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cuthbertson, Hollyer, Mason, Runciman, Smalley and Wann.

Fiona Williams

Before the formal business of the meeting began, the Lord Mayor invited all those present to observe a minute's silence in memory of Fiona Williams BEM, former Head of Libraries and Archives at City of York Council and later Chief Executive of Explore York Libraries and Archives, who had sadly died in May this year.

13. Public Participation (18:11)

It was reported that one person had registered to speak at the meeting under Public Participation, in relation to the business on the agenda.

Gwen Swinburn voiced concerns about the current process of selecting and appointing Honorary Aldermen, stating that an open committee should be established for this purpose and that the title of 'Honorary Alderwoman' should also be available.

14. Honorary Aldermen (18:13)

The Lord Mayor declared the object of the meeting, under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, which was to confer the status of Honorary Alderman upon two former Members of Council.

It was then moved by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Cullwick, and seconded by Cllr Douglas:

"That, pursuant to its powers under Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the City of York upon the following:

John Galvin

Janet Looker

in formal recognition of their significant contribution to the City during the time that they served upon City of York Council."

Following a debate on formally acknowledging the distinction between Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen in future referencing, the motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above motion, to award the honour to John Galvin and Janet Looker, be approved

Cllr C Cullwick

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.05 pm and concluded at 6.17 pm]

City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held at West Offices, York on Thursday, 20 July 2023, starting at 6.30 pm

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

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

Hull Road Ward

Baxter
Kelly
Pavlovic

Huntington and New Earswick
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Warters

Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward

Waudby

Rural West York Ward

Hook
Knight

Strensall Ward

Fisher
Healey

Westfield Ward

Coles
Nelson
Waller

Wheldrake Ward

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cuthbertson,
Hollyer, Mason, Runciman, Smalley and Wann

15. Declarations of Interest (18:34)

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

Cllr Healey declared a personal interest in the budget amendment in the Report of the Executive Member (Agenda Item 10) and in Motion (iv) at Item 8 (A City Response to Food Insecurity) insofar as they related to free school meals, as a parent of children attending a primary school that might be affected by the proposals.

Cllr Ayre also declared a personal interest in these items, as a parent of a child attending a primary school that might be affected by the proposals.

16. Minutes (18:35)

Resolved: That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23 March 2023 and the Annual Council meeting held on 25 May 2023 be approved and then signed by the Chair as a correct record.

17. Civic Announcements (18:36)

The Lord Mayor announced:

- A recent visit from a Professor from the University of Lviv during which gifts were exchanged, including a book which was on display in the room.
- A recent meeting with the Chinese Ambassador and the receipt of a gift of a scroll, which was also on display.
- That three delegations had been welcomed from Munster and a civic exchange with Dijon was planned for September, as links were re-established with York's twinned cities following the pandemic.
- The unveiling of a ledger stone by the Duke of Gloucester on 11 July to be presented to New York in May 2024 to mark the centenary of the presentation of a bronze plaque from New York celebrating the special relationship between the two cities.

- A number of upcoming civic charity events, including a 'Fish & Ships' cruise on 14 August and the Assize of Bread and Ales on 19 August.

Further to the preceding Special Meeting to appoint Honorary Aldermen/women, the Lord Mayor advised Full Council that the Monitoring Officer had confirmed that the legislation referred to Honorary Aldermen and women so scrolls commemorating the honour would be appropriately scripted in the future. He also mentioned that Fiona Young, the Interim Democratic Services Manager and longstanding member of the team, would soon be leaving the council and thanked her for her service over the years.

18. Public Participation (18:41)

It was reported that 10 people had registered to speak at the meeting under Public Participation.

Flick Williams spoke on Agenda Items 8, 10 and 11 (Notices of Motion, Report of Executive Member, and Public Footpath Copmanthorpe No. 2) insofar as they related to disabled access issues. She welcomed the allocation of funding for Blue Badge access to the city centre and the objection to Network Rail's application in respect of the footpath.

Emma Hardy spoke on matters relevant to the city. She expressed concern at the council's decision to renew its membership of Stonewall's diversity scheme, which she said was incompatible with upholding women's and gay rights, and asked that it be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

Gwen Swinburn spoke on matters relevant to the city, voicing concerns about issues including the suitability of the Hudson Room as the venue for the meeting and the procedure for presenting the budget amendment proposal.

Vicki Hill spoke on Agenda Item 5 (Petitions), supporting the petition to remove the bollards and create a new regeneration plan for Front Street, which had been signed by 1,500 people.

Ruth Jackson also spoke in support of the petition at Item 5, highlighting the need for a proper conversation on pedestrianising the street while supporting deliveries to local businesses.

Ginnie Shaw spoke on Item 8(i) (the motion on Safeguarding York's Future). She commended the intentions of the motion but urged the council to work with a climate and nature citizen's assembly and keep the carbon neutral target to the forefront.

Denise Craghill also spoke on Item 8(i), welcoming the commitments in the motion but expressing concern about the effect of reductions in local ward funding.

Jamie Sims also spoke on Item 8(i), welcoming the motion and highlighting the need for more stringent building standards, as well as better engagement with civic society groups in decision-making.

Joe Gilling, of York Cycle Campaign, spoke on Items 8(i) and 8(iii) (the motion on Getting York Moving Fairly), calling on the new administration to use the York Civic Trust's Transport Strategy as a blueprint to re-think York's approach to transport.

Penny Bainbridge spoke in support of Item 8(iv) (the motion on A City Response to Food Insecurity), as a trustee of Edible York, highlighting the activities of Edible York and its involvement in helping low-income families.

19. Petitions (19:14)

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

- A petition presented by Cllr Nelson, on behalf of residents calling on the council to remove all the bollards installed on Front Street and to re-do the street in line with what people had asked for.¹

Action Required

1. Add the petition on the Front Street Regeneration SS Project to the petitions log for referral to CCSMC

20. Report of Executive Leader, Questions, and Executive Recommendations (20:50)

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

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

Priorities for the New Council

From Cllr Whitcroft: Can you explain why the 4 key themes for the new administration – affordability, health & wellbeing, equalities & human rights and the environment - were chosen?

Response: It's been a long process. We have been out talking to the city, to organisations across the board and hundreds of residents, over a period of 2 years. We know there are health and other inequalities across our wards and we have brought it all together to identify what the city needs. The themes will all feed into everything we do and every decision we make.

Supplementary from Cllr Steward: Are these 'planted' questions good or bad?

Supplementary Response: They are helpful to allow me to expand on the subject, and not a bad thing if the balance is right.

From Cllr Widdowson: What progress has been made on reversing the city centre access provisions that hadn't been looked at before May 2023?

Response: the difference is that I've had to consider that there's a compromise position to be found. It won't keep everyone happy but will allow people who haven't had access to the city centre for 3 years to come back in. it's about having the political will to make it happen.

Devolution

From Cllr Wilson: Can you explain what steps you've taken to ensure that York is well positioned to benefit from devolution?

Response: I have been attending meetings with officers involved in this – they are doing this in addition to their day jobs. It's been quite technical so far and I am trying to shift it into something that is shaped by us as politicians. I have asked for it to be part of scrutiny to ensure you have the opportunity to feed back on governance structures so we can say how we'd like to be involved in the future. Some residents, e.g., in Selby, feel distant from decision making – it's a huge geographical area. We need to work in partnership; our priorities with North Yorkshire align and I'd love your input on it.

Local Plan

From Cllr Warters: How confident are you that the responses to the questions raised by the Inspectors on the gypsy / traveller policies will allow them to sign off the plan, and can you confirm that you are already working with officers to review the HMO supplementary planning document?

Response: The Local Plan is very important and we have to get it in place, otherwise there is potential for a developer free for all. Officers assure me that what they have submitted to the Inspectors has been well received. We've been speaking to the Gypsy and Traveller Trust about this – it is a problem area, but we can find a solution. On the HMO, it is in the early stages; Cllr Pavlovic is working with officers on this and I'm sure he'd be happy to update you.

Armed Forces Week

From Cllr Rowley: In your capacity as the Armed Forces Advocate, will you do all you can to ensure York supports those gay and lesbian ex-service members who were removed from service to seek the compensation they so rightly deserve?

Response: Yes, we will do everything we can to ensure that they, and anyone else who has suffered discrimination, get the compensation they deserve. We are a gold holder of the armed forces covenant so are committed to that, and I look forward to working with you.

B – Executive Recommendations

Cllr Douglas moved, and Cllr Kilbane seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 11 of the Executive meeting held on 15 June 2023 and Minute 20 of the Executive meeting held on 13 July 2023:

Minute 11 - Capital Programme Outturn 2022/23 and Revisions to the 2023/24-2027/28 Programme

Recommended: That the re-stated 2023/24 to 2027/28 programme of £533.321, as summarised in Table 3 at paragraph 96 of the Executive report and detailed in Annex A, be approved.¹

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

Minute 19 - Anti-Racism & Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan

Recommended: (i) That Council receive the Strategy and Action Plan on behalf of the City.²

(ii) That the Leader sign the Pledge at Annex B to the report on behalf of the Council.³

Reason: To demonstrate the City of York Council's commitment to being an Anti-Racist City.

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

Resolved: That the above recommendations be approved. ^{1,2,3}

Action Required

1. Note approval of the recommendation on the Capital Programme Outturn 2022/23 and take the appropriate action DM PS

2. Note approval of the recommendations on the Anti-Racism Strategy & Action Plan and take the appropriate action

21. Report of Deputy Leader and Questions (21:02)

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

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

Coppergate Car Park

From Cllr Pearson: Do you consider car journeys to Coppergate car park by those who do not hold a Blue Badge to be unnecessary?

Response: I am not going to make ad-hoc interventions in the transport system. The Local Transport Plan will come forward this year and will address all those issues. We need to free up roads for those who need to use them.

Supplementary from Cllr Ayre: Would ask that you answer the question which was put.

Supplementary Response: The question of what is and isn't necessary will be answered through the LTP process. I look forward to your input.

Full Council

From Cllr Warters: Will the new administration be willing to reduce or do away with motions, and use the time for more business-like matters?

Response: We can use this time more effectively. If we are to review the Constitution so that we can change the way we do business, we will do so openly, transparently, with all stakeholders involved. We are keen to ensure the council operates effectively and follow due process, and residents need to have a say in how that happens.

Reverse the Ban

From Cllr Widdowson: Your report states that you recently had a meeting with the Reverse the Ban organisation. Do you stand by Cllr Douglas' statements during the election period that allowing access to the footstreets was about managing risk and no different from making a decision to cross the road?

Response: Yes.

Supplementary from Cllr Widdowson: Do you believe that the public were misled regarding the simplicity of Blue Badge access and will you apologise for misleading statements about the level of the security risk?

Supplementary Response: There's been no misleading. The level of threat will change through time but the risk assessment remains the same and we've never believed that Blue Badge holders are a terrorist threat. You have to be prepared to take political decisions based on the evidence and balance the threat with the fundamental human right of access to services in the city.

Supplementary 2 from Cllr Ayre: Why do you keep saying in public that the Lib Dems think Blue Badge holders are a terrorist threat when you know it's not true?

Supplementary 2 Response: I don't keep saying that. For the past 3 years Blue Badge holders have been banned while all sorts of vehicles have been allowed access on a random basis because of the decisions your administration made, therefore it's clearly an implication from your actions.

22. Motions on Notice (21:11)

(i) Safeguarding York's Future

Moved by Cllr Ravilious, seconded by Cllr Kent.

“Council notes:

- In 2019, City of York Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to a target of making York carbon neutral by 2030;
- That over 200 Local Authorities have so far pledged to support the Climate and Ecology Bill – a Private Member's Bill brought to parliament by Olivia Blake MP - which, if it becomes law, would require the development of a strategy to ensure that the UK's environmental response is in line with the latest science;
- In March 2023, City of York Council adopted a 10-year Climate Strategy;
- The failure to update York's Local Transport Plan since it was adopted in 2011, despite improved understanding of the impact of transport on the climate;
- City of York Council's adoption of a Pollinator Strategy in 2021.

Council believes:

- the wording of the 2019 cross-party approved Climate Emergency Motion called for significantly more urgent action than the responses that the previous administration delivered;
- the ecological crisis should be tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis through a more joined-up approach, with a focus on reversing the destruction of nature by 2030, not just halting it;
- the 10-Year Climate Change Strategy lacked sufficient commitment, in particular through the omission of intermediate carbon reduction targets;
- any updated Local Transport Plan should reflect and improve on the targets for reductions in greenhouse emissions from private vehicle and freight journeys set out within the current 10-year Climate Change Strategy and previously adopted motions;

- there has not yet been enough tangible action to reflect the admirable ambitions set out in York's adopted Pollinator Strategy.

Council therefore resolves to request:

- that the Lord Mayor and Executive Members begin Full Council, Executive meetings and Executive Member Decision Sessions respectively by reminding Members of the remaining days until 1st January 2030, by which time we have pledged to be carbon neutral and requesting that Members keep this at the forefront of their minds when taking decisions;
- that the Leader writes to our local MPs urging them to sign up to support the Climate & Ecology Bill, or thanking them for already doing so; and write to [Zero Hour](#), and organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Climate & Ecology Bill, expressing its support;
- that the Executive develops a process that demonstrates clear commitment to a strengthened York 10-year Climate Change Strategy by exploring a series of intermediate carbon reduction targets, following exploration of the topic at Corporate and Climate Scrutiny Committee and following receipt of an options report to Executive;
- that the Executive Member for Transport brings forward an updated Local Transport Plan that reflects the latest science and which includes ambitious targets in line with a strengthened York 10-year Climate Strategy;
- that the Executive Members for Environment and Climate Emergency take steps to implement the actions that deliver on the Pollinator Strategy to achieve a measurable increase in biodiversity.”

Cllr Widdowson then moved, and Cllr Waudby seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“In the first paragraph, under ‘Council notes’:

- after the 2nd bullet point, insert a new 3rd bullet point as follows:
 - *‘That in 2008 City of York Council adopted its first Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan’*
- in the 3rd (now the 4th) bullet point, insert *‘That’* at the start before ‘in’, and to the end, after ‘Climate Strategy’, add: *‘ - A City Fit for the Future’ - together with an extensive action*

plan that sets out a vision to be net zero and provides a framework to both reduce carbon and be more climate resilient by 2030. Much of the work to make this plan a reality is under way, from the new community woodland, the UK's only voluntary clean air zone, biggest electric P&R bus fleet and major multi-million flood defence projects;

- insert a new 5th bullet point as follows:
- *'That York is amongst only 122 cities across the world to be awarded an A rating for climate action leadership by the Carbon Disclosure Project;'*
- In the fifth (now the 6th) bullet point, delete 'failure to update' and insert '*ongoing review and update of*'; after 'York's' insert '2011', and after 'Local Transport Plan', delete 'since it was adopted in 2011, despite' and insert '*in the context of an*'.

In the second paragraph, under 'Council believes':

- in the 1st bullet point, delete 'wording of' after 'the' and insert '*10-year Climate Strategy provides a basis for more urgent action to reflect*', insert '*intention of*' before '2019', and delete everything after 'Climate Emergency Motion'.
- In the 3rd bullet point, insert '*in*' at the start, insert '*importance of delivering the commitment included in the*' after 'the' and after 'Climate Change Strategy' delete 'lacked sufficient commitment, in particular through the omission of intermediate carbon reduction targets' and insert '*to track the impact of actions to enable reflection and correction if required;*'
- in the 5th bullet point, after 'there' delete 'has not yet been enough tangible' and insert '*is scope for further*', and after 'action to' delete 'reflect the admirable' and insert '*build on what has already been achieved in relation to the realisation of the*'.
- insert a 6th bullet point, as follows:
 - *'that working collaboratively across party and in good faith will be critical to the achievement of York's climate change ambitions.'*

In the third paragraph, under 'Council resolves to request', insert the following additional bullet points:

- *'that the Executive commits to continuing the ambitious tree-planting programme put in place by the previous administration, namely a tree for each resident - 210,000 in the new community woodland and over 4,000 extra trees in urban areas;*

- *that the Executive explores ways to require developers to deliver a 30% net gain in biodiversity on new developments (introducing living roofs, living walls and rain gardens on urban sites);*
- *that the Executive delivers planned flood defence projects to protect communities, including in Fulford and Strensall, and continues to work with the Environment Agency to deliver more flood defence solutions across the city;*
- *that the Executive produces a Code of Practice to inform landowners, residents and farmers about what can and cannot be done with the council managed verges across the city.”*

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

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.¹

(ii) Highway Maintenance

Moved by Cllr Fenton, seconded by Cllr Hollyer.

“Council Notes:

- That the council’s Highways Schemes budget for 2023/24, agreed in February 2023, is £8.929 million (including £1.174 million carried forward from 2022/23) and that this is supplemented with an additional pothole funding allocation of £504,000 for 2023/24 from the Department for Transport
- That In 2020/21 the Government cut York’s highways maintenance funding from £4m to £2.8m and confirmed that funding would remain at this lower level for three years. This amounts to a total cut of £4.8m - equivalent to 19,000 fewer potholes being repaired each year
- That in the budget agreed in February 2023, an additional £250,000 was allocated to allow local wards to invest directly in improvements such as repairing local roads
- That the current high level of inflation means that available funding for highway maintenance is even more stretched
- That officers estimate that it would cost £190 million to bring York’s highways network up to an excellent standard

- That in recent years there have been a number of additional pressures on the council's budget, such as the installation of new infrastructure in response to Police and counter-terrorism advice on the risk of a city centre hostile vehicle attack
- That the council's current Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan was adopted in 2021
- That the council's current Highways Safety Inspection Manual was adopted in 2020 and, as envisaged when adopted, is currently subject to a review by officers
- That the 'investigatory level' for potholes is 40mm vertical face depth and 200mm across in any horizontal direction and that for 'cycle lanes' the level is 20mm vertical face depth, but there is no reference in the Manual to 'cycle margins' ie the section of road near to the kerb but which is not a marked lane
- That in York there are a large number of concrete roads which, some years ago, were overlaid with a tarmac layer approximately 30mm in depth and that the tarmac layer on many of these roads is crumbling, causing potholes to develop
- That due to the concrete structure of these roads remaining largely intact, these potholes are unlikely to ever meet the investigatory threshold set out in the Manual.

Council believes:

- That poor road surfaces pose a hazard to cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair and mobility scooter users, motorcyclists and motorists
- That concrete roads with a tarmac top layer pose a particular hazard in that when the tarmac begins to fail, this can be rapid and widespread and lead to a significant length of road becoming difficult and dangerous to use, particularly for cyclists
- That whilst funding for Highway maintenance is likely to continue to be stretched, more specific consideration needs to be given to the maintenance of concrete roads with a tarmac top layer.

Council resolves to request that the Executive:

- Expedites the review of the Highways Safety Inspection Manual

- Requires that as part of this review, a change to the 'investigatory level' for potholes to 30mm vertical face depth is secured
- Ensures that the relevant scrutiny committee and special interest groups (such as those relating to cycling and disability rights) are consulted to better understand the impacts of the current approach to highway maintenance as described in the Manual."

Cllr Crawshaw then moved, and Cllr Webb seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

"In the first paragraph, under 'Council notes':

- insert a new 3rd bullet point, as follows:
 - *'York has some 151km of adopted cycle routes (part of the Highway network) and 46km of unadopted cycle routes.'*
- in the 3rd (now the 4th) bullet point, after 'agreed in' delete 'February 2023, an additional' and insert 'July 2019', and after £250,000 insert 'per year';
- insert new 5th and 6th bullet points, as follows:
 - *'That due to the lack of revenue budget allocated by the previous administration to 'buy' Officer time to develop these Ward-based schemes, many were not progressed, despite some being presented as far back as August 2019.'*
 - *'That much of the work delivered under this element of ward funding should have been undertaken as part of the highway maintenance programme'*
- delete the 9th bullet point (starting 'in recent years') and substitute:
 - *'a political decision to remove £3.5million from the Highways maintenance budget in order to install Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures has added additional pressures;'*
- insert new 13th bullet point, as follows:
 - *'That the current approach of temporarily filling some potholes whilst leaving neighbouring potholes untouched until they too reach the intervention threshold is both inefficient and leaves residents frustrated and irritated.'*
- insert new 16th bullet point, as follows:
 - *'York Local Transport Plan's hierarchy of users, with pedestrians and cyclists at the top.'*

"In the second paragraph, under 'Council believes':

- in the 1st bullet point, delete 'poor road surfaces' and insert 'insufficient highway maintenance work'

- in the 2nd bullet point, delete all between ‘That’ and ‘for cyclists’ and insert *‘degraded road surfaces can be a particular problem’*, then after ‘cyclists’ insert *‘especially when they are suddenly forced out into the carriageway in order to avoid them.’*
- in the 3rd bullet point, delete all after ‘stretched’ and insert *‘it is vital that any spending is used efficiently and effectively.’*
- add a 4th and 5th bullet point to the end, as follows:
 - *‘That the previous administration’s devolved Highways Budgets were an inefficient use of resources and were set up to fail due to varying levels of Officer support made available to different Ward schemes.*
 - *That it makes sense to address clusters of potholes at the same time rather than waiting for each pothole in a specific location to deteriorate until an intervention is required.’*

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

- in the 2nd bullet point, delete ‘Requires that’ and insert *‘Explores’*
- add a 4th and 5th bullet point to the end, as follows:
 - *‘That the strategic active travel network (as identified in the draft LCWIP) is prioritised for highway maintenance treatment and allocated a specific budget to complete maintenance to a safe standard throughout the year.*
 - *Trials a more efficient use of the Ward Highways Budget in 2023-24, reallocating it to establish a dedicated team that will have the flexibility to patch larger sections of road surface at a time, thereby delivering a longer lasting fix and better use of limited resources.’*

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“Council notes:

- That the council’s Highways Schemes budget for 2023/24, agreed in February 2023, is £8.929 million (including £1.174 million carried forward from 2022/23) and that this is supplemented with an additional pothole funding allocation of £504,000 for 2023/24 from the Department for Transport.
- That In 2020/21 the Government cut York’s highways maintenance funding from £4m to £2.8m and confirmed

that funding would remain at this lower level for three years. This amounts to a total cut of £4.8m - equivalent to 19,000 fewer potholes being repaired each year

- York has some 151km of adopted cycle routes (part of the Highway network) and 46km of unadopted cycle routes.
- That in the budget agreed in July 2019 £250,000 per year was allocated to allow local wards to invest directly in improvements such as repairing local roads
- That due to the lack of revenue budget allocated by the previous administration to 'buy' Officer time to develop these Ward-based schemes, many were not progressed, despite some being presented as far back as August 2019.
- That much of the work delivered under this element of ward funding should have been undertaken as part of the highway maintenance programme.
- That the current high level of inflation means that available funding for highway maintenance is even more stretched.
- That officers estimate that it would cost £190 million to bring York's highways network up to an excellent standard.
- That a political decision to remove £3.5million from the Highways maintenance budget in order to install Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures has added additional pressures.
- That the council's current Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan was adopted in 2021.
- That the council's current Highways Safety Inspection Manual was adopted in 2020 and, as envisaged when adopted, is currently subject to a review by officers.
- That the 'investigatory level' for potholes is 40mm vertical face depth and 200mm across in any horizontal direction and that for 'cycle lanes' the level is 20mm vertical face depth, but there is no reference in the Manual to 'cycle margins' i.e. the section of road near to the kerb but which is not a marked lane.
- That the current approach of temporarily filling some potholes whilst leaving neighbouring potholes untouched until they too reach the intervention threshold is both inefficient and leaves residents frustrated and irritated.

- That in York there are a large number of concrete roads which, some years ago, were overlaid with a tarmac layer approximately 30mm in depth and that the tarmac layer on many of these roads is crumbling, causing potholes to develop.
- That due to the concrete structure of these roads remaining largely intact, these potholes are unlikely to ever meet the investigatory threshold set out in the Manual.
- York Local Transport Plan's hierarchy of users, with pedestrians and cyclists at the top.

Council believes:

- That insufficient highway maintenance work poses a hazard to cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair and mobility scooter users, motorcyclists and motorists.
- That degraded road surfaces can be a particular problem for cyclists, especially when they are suddenly forced out into the carriageway in order to avoid them.
- That whilst funding for Highway maintenance is likely to continue to be stretched, it is vital that any spending is used efficiently and effectively.
- That the previous administration's devolved Highways Budgets were an inefficient use of resources and were set up to fail due to varying levels of Officer support made available to different Ward schemes.
- That it makes sense to address clusters of potholes at the same time rather than waiting for each pothole in a specific location to deteriorate until an intervention is required.

Council resolves to request that the Executive:

- Expedites the review of the Highways Safety Inspection Manual.
- Explores as part of this review, a change to the 'investigatory level' for potholes to 30mm vertical face depth is secured.
- Ensures that the relevant scrutiny committee and special interest groups (such as those relating to cycling and disability rights) are consulted to better understand the impacts of the current approach to highway maintenance as described in the Manual.

- That the strategic active travel network (as identified in the draft LCWIP) is prioritised for highway maintenance treatment and allocated a specific budget to complete maintenance to a safe standard throughout the year.
- Trials a more efficient use of the Ward Highways Budget in 2023-24, reallocating it to establish a dedicated team that will have the flexibility to patch larger sections of road surface at a time, thereby delivering a longer lasting fix and better use of limited resources.”

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

Resolved: That the above motion, as amended, be approved.²

Note: At this point, the guillotine fell and the remaining motions and amendments were deemed moved and seconded and were voted on without debate.

(iii) Getting York Moving Fairly

Submitted by Cllr Rowley.

“Council notes the transport problems in York from 2019-2023, caused by an administration clashing with itself and the damage that this has done to the council’s reputation amongst residents. Council believes it is vital that sustainable modes of transport including cycling and walking are prioritised but opposes a war on the car user. Council also believes inclusivity for all is paramount and that rural transport users need greater recognition and disabled people should be at the forefront of provision.

For the next four-year administration, Council asks the Executive to commit to:

1. Look wherever possible to improve the cycle network, including better linking of villages
2. Reverse the City Centre Blue Badge ban
3. Rule out a Congestion Charge
4. Address the stalled work on the dualling of the A1237.”

Amendment 1 - submitted by Cllr Fenton

"In the first paragraph:

- after 'Council notes the', insert '*strong desire from York residents for improvements to the city's*'
- after 'transport', delete 'problems in York from 2019-2023, caused by an administration clashing with itself and the damage that this has done to the council's reputation amongst residents' and insert: '*system. This was highlighted in the responses to the 2021 'Our Big Conversation' engagement exercise, which found that 90% of respondents see congestion as a problem in York, 82% see air pollution from traffic as a problem, 80% say transport has a negative impact on climate change, 76% want safer cycle routes and 69% want a more frequent/ reliable/ more extensive/ lower cost bus network.*'

In the second paragraph:

- in point 1. delete 'linking of villages' and insert '*connecting all of York's communities with the city centre, secondary shopping areas, workplaces and schools*'
- delete point 2. and substitute the following wording: '*Notes the administration's pledge to reverse the 'city centre blue badge ban' and therefore keeps the operation of city centre access arrangements under review once the hostile vehicle measures recommended by the Police and Terrorism experts to protect all in the city centre have been installed, ensuring the most up to date Police advice is followed and all alternatives and mitigations are explored*'.
- in point 4. delete 'Address the stalled work on' and insert '*Continue the work already underway to progress*'
- Add a further two points, as follows:
 - '5. *Work with operators and users to deliver long term improvements to bus services and infrastructure*
 - 6. *Press Government to provide the funding needed to deliver Haxby Station, now that the project is at its furthest stage in decades.*'

On being put to the vote, Amendment 1 was declared LOST.

Amendment 2 - submitted by Cllr Kilbane

"In the first paragraph:

- in the 1st sentence, after 'caused by', delete 'an' and insert *'the old Liberal Democrat-Green coalition'*, and after 'administration', delete 'clashing with itself' and insert *lacking ambition, vision and any ability to listen to those with lived experience,'*
- in the 2nd sentence, after 'prioritised but', delete 'opposes' and insert *'acknowledges this is undermined if it is presented as being'*

In the second paragraph:

- to the end of point 4., add *'by working with stakeholders to deliver a scheme that meets the transport commitments within York's Climate Change Strategy and the emerging Local Transport Plan'*
- add a further point, as follows:
'5. Calling on the new Mayoral Combined Authority, once established, to make taking back control of our buses a priority'."

On being put to the vote, Amendment 2 was declared CARRIED.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

"Council notes the transport problems in York from 2019-2023, caused by the old Liberal Democrat-Green coalition administration lacking ambition, vision and any ability to listen to those with lived experience, and the damage that this has done to the council's reputation amongst residents. Council believes it is vital that sustainable modes of transport including cycling and walking are prioritised but acknowledges this is undermined if it is presented as being a war on the car user. Council also believes inclusivity for all is paramount and that rural transport users need greater recognition and disabled people should be at the forefront of provision.

For the next four-year administration, Council asks the Executive to commit to:

1. Look wherever possible to improve the cycle network, including better linking of villages
2. Reverse the City Centre Blue Badge ban
3. Rule out a Congestion Charge
4. Address the stalled work on the dualling of the A1237 by working with stakeholders to deliver a scheme that meets the

transport commitments within York's Climate Change Strategy and the emerging Local Transport Plan.

5. Calling on the new Mayoral Combined Authority, once established, to make taking back control of our buses a priority."

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

Resolved: That the above motion, as amended, be approved.³

(iv) A City Response to Food Insecurity

Submitted by Cllr. Nelson.

"This council notes:

- in January 2023, 21.6% of family households reported children with direct experience of food insecurity and shortage in the past month, affecting an estimated 3.7 million children. This percentage had almost doubled in just 12 months;
- in these households, 3 in 4 reported being worried about the impact of being unable to afford sufficient food on their children's physical and mental health;
- food price inflation currently sits at 18.4%, amongst its highest rate in almost 50 years, leaving families facing tough choices about what goes into the shopping basket each week;
- problems faced by children and young people due to food insecurity and shortage go way beyond just being hungry and affect mental health, obesity rates, dental health and other aspects of the child and their families' life;
- the benefits of growing food on mental and physical health;
- the significant waiting lists for all allotment sites across the city;
- the impact small businesses and 'micro-farmers' can have on improving food security for local communities;
- the benefits of local food production and 'micro-farmers' can have on the environment;
- the contribution of growing and consuming local food on the future of York as a sustainable city.

Council believes that at a time of such economic turmoil, providing greater access to cheap, healthy, locally grown food could help avert poor health outcomes for many York residents.

This council resolves to ask the Executive to:

- write a letter to the Prime Minister and relevant ministers about the importance of introducing auto-enrolment for those entitled to free school meals;
- promote enrolment for free school meals to support children, young people and their families to help combat food insecurity and shortage in York;
- encourage larger food providers in and around York to sign up to York's Good Business Charter, including paying the Real Living Wage;
- work more closely with groups like Edible York and YACIO (York Allotments Charitable Incorporated Organisation) to develop ideas for increasing the number of public green spaces available for food production by communities across York;
- request that the council's scrutiny function undertakes a review of community food growing opportunities and makes recommendations to Executive to expand these opportunities, including considering the prospects for expanding an Edible York project in Tang Hall to other parts of the city to bring more underused gardens into use for food growing."

Amendment from Cllr Fisher:

"In the last paragraph, under 'This council resolves to ask the Executive to':

- in the 4th bullet point, after 'work more closely with' insert '*Parish Councils and*'."

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

"This council notes:

- in January 2023, 21.6% of family households reported children with direct experience of food insecurity and shortage in the past month, affecting an estimated 3.7 million children. This percentage had almost doubled in just 12 months;

- in these households, 3 in 4 reported being worried about the impact of being unable to afford sufficient food on their children's physical and mental health;
- food price inflation currently sits at 18.4%, amongst its highest rate in almost 50 years, leaving families facing tough choices about what goes into the shopping basket each week;
- problems faced by children and young people due to food insecurity and shortage go way beyond just being hungry and affect mental health, obesity rates, dental health and other aspects of the child and their families' life;
- the benefits of growing food on mental and physical health;
- the significant waiting lists for all allotment sites across the city;
- the impact small businesses and 'micro-farmers' can have on improving food security for local communities;
- the benefits of local food production and 'micro-farmers' can have on the environment;
- the contribution of growing and consuming local food on the future of York as a sustainable city.

Council believes that at a time of such economic turmoil, providing greater access to cheap, healthy, locally grown food could help avert poor health outcomes for many York residents.

This council resolves to ask the Executive to:

- write a letter to the Prime Minister and relevant ministers about the importance of introducing auto-enrolment for those entitled to free school meals;
- promote enrolment for free school meals to support children, young people and their families to help combat food insecurity and shortage in York;
- encourage larger food providers in and around York to sign up to York's Good Business Charter, including paying the Real Living Wage;
- work more closely with Parish Councils and groups like Edible York and YACIO (York Allotments Charitable Incorporated Organisation) to develop ideas for increasing the number of public green spaces available for food production by communities across York;
- request that the council's scrutiny function undertakes a review of community food growing opportunities and makes recommendations to Executive to expand these opportunities, including considering the prospects for

expanding an Edible York project in Tang Hall to other parts of the city to bring more underused gardens into use for food growing.”

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

Resolved: That the above motion, as amended, be approved.⁴

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. To note approval of the motion on Safeguarding York's Future and take the appropriate action | NF |
| 2. To note approval of the motion on Highway Maintenance, as amended, and take the appropriate action. | NF |
| 3. To note approval of the motion on Getting York Moving Fairly (as amended by the 2nd amendment) and take appropriate action | NF |
| 4. To note approval of the motion on A City Response to Food Insecurity, as amended, and take the appropriate action | IF |

23. Questions to the Leader or Executive Members (22:10)

No questions were put, as the guillotine had fallen.

24. Report of Executive Member (Including Budget Amendment) (19:16)

[The Lord Mayor having varied the order of business, this item was brought forward and dealt with immediately after Petitions.]

A written report was received from Cllr Lomas, the Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects & Equalities.

Cllr Crawshaw then moved, and Cllr Webb seconded, a motion to suspend Procedure Rule B10 in order to extend the time limit available for this item and enable the Executive Member to move the proposed budget amendment contained in her report and Council to debate and vote on that proposal.

On being put to the vote, the motion to suspend the Procedure Rules was declared CARRIED.

Cllr Lomas then moved, and Cllr Douglas seconded, the proposal, as follows:

“That Council approve the proposed budget amendment at Annex A to the report.

Reason: In order to alter the council’s existing approved budget to reflect the priorities of the council’s new administration.”

Cllr Ayre then moved, and Cllr Healey seconded, an amendment to the proposal, as follows:

“Before ‘proposed’ insert *revisions to the*’, and after ‘report’ remove the full stop and insert ‘, *as contained in the Liberal Democrats’ budget amendment attached to the Agenda Supplement.*”

A named vote was taken on the amendment, with the following result:

For	Against	Abstained
Ayre	Baxter	Nicholls
Fenton	B Burton	Rowley
Fisher	J Burton	Steward
Healey	Clarke	
Hook	Coles	
Knight	Crawshaw	
Orrell	Douglas	
Pearson	Kelly	
Vassie	Kent	
Waller	Kilbane	
Waudby	Lomas	
Widdowson	Melly	
Cllr Cullwick (Lord Mayor)	Merrett	
	Myers	
	Nelson	
	Pavlovic	
	Ravilious	
	Rose	
	Steels-Walshaw	
	Taylor	
	Warters	
	Webb	
	Wells	

	Whitcroft	
	Wilson	
13	25	3

A named vote was then taken on the original proposal, with the following result:

For	Against	Abstained
Baxter	Ayre	Nicholls
B Burton	Fenton	Rowley
J Burton	Fisher	Steward
Clarke	Healey	
Coles	Hook	
Crawshaw	Knight	
Douglas	Orrell	
Kelly	Pearson	
Kent	Vassie	
Kilbane	Waller	
Lomas	Waudby	
Melly	Widdowson	
Merrett	Cllr Cullwick (Lord Mayor)	
Myers		
Nelson		
Pavlovic		
Ravilious		
Rose		
Steels-Walshaw		
Taylor		
Warters		
Webb		
Wells		
Whitcroft		
Wilson		
25	13	3

The original proposal was therefore declared CARRIED and it was

Resolved: That the budget amendment contained in the Executive Member report and its annex and moved by Cllr Lomas be approved.¹

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

Budget Amendment

From Cllr Waudby: Why has no Equalities Impact Assessment been presented with your amendment?

Response: We will no longer be using EIAs to consider these issues but will be moving to a human rights and equalities analysis model to look at the positive as well as negative impacts of decisions, and at mitigations against the negative effects.

From Cllr Fisher: During the last Council cycle, a lot of work was done on footpaths in Stockton on the Forest, providing disabled access to the village hall and funding a path through the woods as a safe space for exercise. How many of these schemes outside your ward did you visit before taking an axe to ward funding?

Response: It hasn't been axed but re-prioritised, and I would be happy to accept an invitation to your ward to visit these schemes. You will continue to get ward funding.

From Cllr Orrell: The final ward accounts in March showed that ward funding had been allocated for VAS signs at the access to Vanguard on North Lane. When will the signs be installed?

Response: It's a matter for Cllr Kilbane as the Executive Member for Transport. I can reassure you that any schemes already paid for from last year's allocation will be delivered if there is potential to do so.

Major Projects

From Cllr Fenton: Can you confirm the accuracy of Cllr Kilbane's reported comments that the parking lost at Castle Car Park won't be replaced or, if this is not correct, the location of the replacement parking?

Response: I cannot help you on what Cllr Kilbane did or didn't say. As you know the Castle Mills project is currently in difficulties but we will do all we can to get all major projects up and running. No decisions have been made at present on the Castle Mills scheme regarding car parking.

From Cllr Waudby: Why has no Equalities Impact Assessment been presented with your amendment?

Response:

Action Required

1. To note approval of the budget amendment moved by Cllr Lomas and take the appropriate action DM

25. Public Footpath Copmanthorpe No 2 - Proposed closure of Level Crossing and Footpath Diversion - City of York Council Objection to Network Rail's Application under the Provisions of the Transport and Works Act 1992 (22:10)

[The Lord Mayor having varied the order of business, this item was brought forward and dealt with immediately after the Report of the Executive Member.]

Cllr Kilbane moved, and Cllr Nicholls seconded, the following recommendations contained in the report of the Director of Transport, Environment & Planning at page 43 of the agenda papers:

- (i) “That Council endorse the objection to the proposed Order which was submitted by the council to the Secretary of State following the decision made by the Chief Operating Officer using their urgency powers to oppose the order on 15 May 2023, in accordance with the procedures set out in Section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason: To confirm the objection submitted by the Chief Operating Officer using their urgency powers, as the proposed footbridge would not allow disabled pedestrians to use the crossing. The footbridge proposal being unlit and enclosed was also considered to be unsafe particularly at night.

- (i) Subject to legal advice, that Council authorise the representation of the council at any public inquiry in respect of the proposed Order.

Reason: To enable the council to be represented at any public inquiry in respect of the proposed Order.”

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

Resolved: That the above recommendations be approved.¹

Action Required

1. To note approval of the recommendations in the report on Public Footpath Copmanthorpe No. 2 (etc) and take appropriate action JG

26. Update on Governance Arrangements for the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) (22:10)

The following recommendations contained in the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer at page 55 of the agenda papers were deemed moved and seconded and were voted on without debate:

“Council is recommended to:

- a. note and consider the changes recommended by the YPO Management Committee;
- b. delegate authority to Director of Governance to sign an updated Management Agreement on behalf of the Council noting that all Member Authorities must also agree before the revisions take effect; and
- c. confirm the appointment of Cllr Merrett as the Member of the Joint Committee and Cllr Wilson as their substitute.

Reason: To ensure that the governance of YPO Management Committee remains up to date and fit for purpose.”

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

Resolved: That the above recommendations be approved.¹

Action Required

1. To note approval of the recommendations in the report on Update on Governance Arrangements for YPO and take appropriate action BR

27. Independent Remuneration Panel (22:10)

The following recommendation contained in the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer at page 121 of the agenda papers was deemed moved and seconded and was voted on without debate:

“To approve the appointment of the following individuals to the Independent Remuneration Panel, in order to establish a Panel of 3 to undertake the work of reviewing allowances and entitlements given to elected Members:

Mr David Dickson
Ms Elizabeth Heaps
Ms Lucy Shaw.”

Reason: To comply with statutory requirements for an independent review of allowances and entitlements for Councillors following their election to the Council.”

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

Resolved: That the above recommendation be approved.¹

Action Required

1. To note approval of the recommendation in the report on Independent Remuneration Panel and take appropriate action DS

28. Independent Person - Audit & Governance Committee (22:10)

The following recommendation contained in the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer was deemed moved and seconded and was voted on without debate:

“To extend the current term of office of the Independent Person (Mr Joe Leigh) appointed to Audit & Governance Committee for a further 2 years on the proviso that Mr Leigh provide up to 3 months’ notice should he wish to resign from the office.

Reason: To ensure continuity of office for the immediate future.”

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

Resolved: That the above recommendation be approved.¹

Action Required

1. To note approval of the recommendation in the report on Independent Person - Audit & Governance Committee and take appropriate action DS

29. Appointments and Changes to Membership (22:10)

Resolved: That the appointments and changes to membership set out on the list at page 3 of Agenda Supplement 1 be approved.¹

Action Required

1. To note approval of the revised appointments list, make the changes on the system and inform organisations as required LC

Cllr C Cullwick

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.31 pm and concluded at 10.10 pm]

Council**21 September 2023****Report of the Leader of the Council**

Council Plan

It's with great pride that I bring the 2023-2027 Council Plan to Full Council. This has been a truly collaborative piece of work laying out the priorities for the council over the coming years. Incorporating both the administration's priorities of making York a more affordable place for residents to live, work and study, closing health inequalities across our city, making York a more equal place with opportunities for everyone and tackling the climate emergency and improving our environment.

My administration and the council's officers are ambitious for our city and are ready to tackle our most pressing issues including the supply of good quality, affordable and green housing, making sure everyone who needs to can move around York efficiently, sustainably and at affordable prices, that we protect our environment, reach our net zero goals, improve biodiversity and protect nature.

The Council Plan reflects the priorities of the people, businesses and organisations across our city, there is an awful lot of work to achieve. We've made good progress in some areas already and will progress others in a planned and structured way so that we deliver what we've promised. I call on all Councillors across the chamber to join us in delivering these actions for the benefit of all of York.

City and Community Engagement

One of my primary joys and priorities is to make sure we get out of West Offices and engage with our city. The period since July Council has seen me attend a number of events and meet with a range of organisations across York from Foxwood Family Fun Day, Different Strokes peer support group. The York and North Yorkshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner's Conference on Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in North Yorkshire and York. The York Minster Fund's evening to celebrate the start of works to build the Minster's ground-breaking Centre of Excellence. Speaking at the exciting Research Project launch for a New Era for Female Entrepreneurship in York and North Yorkshire: a collaboration between the Federation of Small Business and the University of York. Visits to York Museum's Trust, Explore Libraries and Archives and the Company of Merchant Adventurers and the Civic Trust.

Electrification of bus fleet and good news for bus routes funding

The electrification of First's bus depot is great news for York, making it one of the first outside London to go fully electric. This is a welcome and necessary part of supporting what will be a fully electric First bus fleet of 86 vehicles by the end of this year. I was delighted to meet First to take part in the 'switch on' of its new fleet of electric buses which will cut around 3000 tonnes in carbon emissions each year. I also made representations to First about the need for greater accessibility on its buses in future.

Another welcome step with First is its commitment to deliver some of the currently subsidised bus services back to commercial operated, removing some of the need for further Bus Service Improvement Plan support funding and providing some longer-term certainty for passengers using these services. This doesn't cover all those services receiving short-term BSIP funding, but it does represent a change in position from First and I want to thank Cllr Kilbane and council officers for their efforts in helping secure this shift from our largest bus operator.

For other services not being commercially run but which are currently being supported with BSIP funding, this support will initially extend until January 2024. This allows time for officers to undertake a network review, ensuring we have routes that run commercially as much as possible and with less reliance on subsidy, giving greater stability for services in the future. I would urge councillors to do all they can to promote bus use to help make services sustainable longer term.

UNESCO World Heritage Site

It was great to see that York has been added to the Tentative List in April 2023 for the potential designation of York as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The York World Heritage Steering Group has done an immense amount of work and experts across our city have supported this work. It has been a fantastic team effort, I'd like to thank everyone involved. I recently met with key figures from the team who are currently working on a plan with the input of Council officers for the next steps to be taken on this long and arduous journey. We have discussed the need to present York's case for inclusion as a World Heritage Site as a city that has changed and adapted over the millennia of our rich and vibrant history. It doesn't stand still; it innovates and moves with the times to deliver the best outcomes for its residents.

I look forward to seeing the application progress, reflecting our rich history, vibrant culture while actively acknowledging the challenges our city currently needs to tackle. I look forward to keeping you updated.

Devolution for York and North Yorkshire

Our Devolution journey continues to progress, perhaps not quite as quickly as we would hope but it progresses. I have had reassurance and confirmation from the Minister responsible that the Devolution Order wording will be with the constituent authorities imminently, now that Westminster is sitting again. The wording of the Order including Governance Structures still needs to come through for review and approval. The Order then goes back to Westminster for final approval through both Houses. Due to both conference season and the November recess, it is expected that this procedure won't be completed until December.

It means that the legal creation of the Combined Authority won't happen in November as we had hoped. This is obviously disappointing but the delay for this part of the procedure to January or February won't delay the election of the region's elected Mayor in May 2024. Cllr Carl Les, Leader of North Yorkshire Council and I have written a joint letter to Dehenna Davison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, outlining the need for urgency of action from government to get the procedures completed in good time so as not to impact our expected timeframes.

York Central

Following our last Full Council meeting it was very welcome to have confirmation of the additional £40 Million of fiscal support approved and confirmed by the Government. This was an ask within the Devolution deal. This announcement shows the commitment from a broad range of government stakeholders in the transformative potential of the York Central Project. The funding will support the project as it moves forward whether to incentivise new key employers to locate to the site or to support top class infrastructure or facilities. The procurement for the Lead Developer is currently being carried out by Homes England and Network Rail, the main landowners. We hope to hear the outcome in early to mid-October. This will be another key milestone and I look forward to starting talks with the winning bidder on how York Central can truly deliver for the people of York.

Our city needs modern commercial spaces and more essential affordable housing, sizeable green spaces created for public enjoyment

and biodiversity, within our net zero commitments. I want a place our residents are proud of, can enjoy and can benefit from, no matter where they live in our city. It's vital that York Central delivers its potential, and I look forward to working with partners across the project to make this happen.

Local Plan

The Local Plan continues to progress with what I hope to see as the final stage of short consultation on a couple of potential Green Belt amendments having recently closed. The progress of the Local Plan to adoption in the coming months will be a relief for all who have been involved in this long and sometimes painful process. The Local Plan is a vital tool for allowing our city to have effective control over appropriate development in York and deliver on much needed and long overdue housing and commercial space. I'm sure we all look forward to its adoption followed by the important work of implementation. We now wait for further news on the next steps from the Inspectors. I would like to thank all officers, developers, subject matter experts, statutory and other consultees who have all committed so much time, expertise and resource to this process.

Royal Gun Salute – Queens Birthday

In July I was honoured to be invited to celebrate the Queen's birthday at Imphal Barracks and the Museum Gardens. The Royal Gun Salute was hosted by the 4th Infantry Brigade and the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (RFCA). It was a really valuable opportunity to meet serving army personnel and Armed Forces Champions from local authorities across the Yorkshire and North East region. The City of York Council is a Gold award employer. There are only a small handful in the city. The Council upholds and has signed the Armed Forces Covenant and proactively demonstrates forces-friendly credentials as part of recruiting, selection processes and employment terms for service people, reservists and veterans.

Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission

I am glad to have been nominated as the Regional Vice Chair for the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission. This is a hugely important regional body with private, public and the voluntary sector members coming together to support and guide ambitious climate actions across our region. The Commission promotes climate resilience and the transition to net-zero emissions in a positive, constructive, and evidence-based way. It also seeks to take climate actions in a fair, inclusive and

just way so that no-one and nowhere is left out or left behind. I have met with the Chair and Co-Director of the Commission and will attend the action and planning day as it moves from Stage 1, creation, to Stage 2 where members will focus on action development and delivery over the coming days. This is a hugely important and exciting initiative. Knowledge sharing and support for collective and local actions is vital as we make critical steps towards a Net Zero future for York and our neighbours.

Council Finances

The council's finances are in a precarious position and we cannot as an authority continue to spend beyond our means. I have no doubt that any councillor came into local government to make cuts to services, but we have no option. We can turn this into a political football or be grown up about it and work out ways of making those cuts that have the least impact on those in most need. We can continue to lobby central government for fair funding for York, while highlighting the appalling settlements across local government, NHS and education that put York bottom of the national pile.

The council has been talking about being more targeted in how it delivers services for over a decade since austerity first hit local government, but this hasn't been prioritised. Now we have no choice. The more for less narrative has been done to death and was always just an illusion.

Last year and this year, with what we have inherited, we'll collectively see the best part of £10m removed from reserves just to balance the budget. I challenge any councillor to stand up and tell me how that is sustainable. It simply isn't. So, we're going to get to grips with the situation we've been handed and make the hard decisions needed.

We'll do this with a great deal of discomfort and unwillingness, but it's a choice to make these decisions ourselves or pretend the problem doesn't exist and have the Government step in to make them for us. We cannot entertain the latter.

I hope aside from the annual budget setting process that the council's scrutiny committees will look at the council's finances and consider a longer term approach to putting the organisation on a sustainable financial footing. That is what Executive Members are doing. They will be more than willing to engage with scrutiny if they do.

Councillor Douglas, Leader

13 September 2023

Council**21 September 2023****Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council**

It continues to be a great honour to support the Leader of the Council as she works tirelessly with residents and all city stakeholders to make York a better place for everyone.

She does so having inherited a financial situation that is stretched beyond limits. The crumbling infrastructure, both physical and social, that we see all around us is a direct result of the austerity imposed by the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Parties for over a decade.

We calculate that these political choices have resulted in our revenue budget being £50m - £60m short of where it should be. That is year on year £60m worth of value that cannot be delivered to the people of York, while we scrimp and scrape to maintain basic services.

These decisions highlight the role successive Governments have played in shrinking local government and the services councils are able to provide, and which leave us where we are today.

These difficulties have been compounded by local Liberal Democrat, Green and Conservative administrations pretending everything was alright, using reserves, one-off and emergency funds to plug the gaps.

York Labour will always be straight about the challenges we face. We have been brutally honest about the financial position that we have inherited, and we are committed to finding solutions while protecting our most vulnerable residents. Despite the rain coming down, we are working hard to fix the roof.

We welcome thoughts and ideas from all political parties and stakeholders that help us deal with the existential issues facing councils up and down the land. We will be an open and outward looking authority.

To this end we have continued to engage proactively with organisations across the city, and they have welcomed this new approach. In partnership with them we are developing a range of opportunities to enhance the life chances of our residents.

We will take advantage of the opportunities that York & North Yorkshire devolution and York Central will bring, especially for our economically disadvantaged residents.

Finally, since taking office, it has been a pleasure to work with and get to know so many dedicated and hard-working officers. We have, in the City of York Council staff, fabulous and talented people who are dedicated to providing great public service. They do so in very difficult circumstances, often with very little thanks. So, I should like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our staff because what they do keeps the whole city going.

Councillor Kilbane
Deputy Leader
13 September 2023

Council

21 September 2023

Report of the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

I want to start by saying how much of a privilege it is to take on the role of Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education. There are some absolutely fantastic people out there in York working hard and doing their best for children and young people in our City and it is great to be a part of that.

Inspection Results

I am pleased to say that the recent focussed visit by HMI Ofsted looking at arrangements for care leavers (young people who are some of the most vulnerable in society), went exceedingly well and shows the progress that has been made in the short time since the Full Inspection of Children's Services in the last municipal cycle.

Please take the time to read the letter produced by HMI but the key findings were that ***'Care leavers are very well supported by staff, with whom they have stable and trusted relationships'*** and ***'Senior leaders and members are strong and active corporate parents, who are committed to improving the lives of care leavers. Leaders value opportunities to engage with young people and understand their views and perspectives, treating them as experts. This puts young people at the centre of decision-making and service development.'***

I'd like to thank all the staff and young people that were involved with this process. Any inspection is never a pleasant experience but staff and young people have really stepped up to articulate the work that they are doing.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to remind council that each member is a corporate parent and if you haven't received corporate parenting training recently then please feel free to get in touch with staff to arrange an update.

One aspect of this Ofsted report was our real commitment to pushing corporate parenting up the council's agenda. In my opinion this should include all members having knowledge of the Corporate Parenting Board. As such, please find attached this report as an annex and I would happily answer questions about Corporate Parenting at Full Council or at any other point as well; please just get in touch.

Free School Meals

We are making progress with our manifesto pledge to mobilise the City to deliver Free School Meals to primary school children. I am proud that we have invested £100k as a council as seed-funding and I'd like to thank council officers for the work that they have done to prepare the ground for our pilot project.

We have spoken to charities to help us set up a 'York Fund' pot that individuals, organisations and businesses are encouraged to contribute towards, and this will hopefully go live in October.

We have brought different people from across the City together in a steering group to help us deliver this ambition as a City rather than just as a local authority and I'd like to thank those individuals for their time and expertise.

Once the initial funding pot is in place our plan is to start delivering Free School lunches in Westfield Primary School from January. Westfield is home to some of our most deprived communities and it is one of our largest primary schools and so hopefully we will be able to see the biggest benefits and really investigate what works in our delivery model and how we can improve it moving forward.

Subsequent to this, subject to funding we will look to extend the pilot to Burton Green Primary School to look at the delivery of breakfasts instead. Headteachers have reached out to us and have suggested that from an educational point of view this could be better as it is likely to improve attendance, gives those already on FSM two meals rather than one and fuels young people up before learning. Our ambition is to trial both approaches and learn from the pilot to see what works best for young people in York before expanding this over time.

Further to this we are also piloting the use of 'auto-enrolment' onto Free School Meals. This is aimed at anyone who is currently eligible but for whatever reason is not claiming. This auto-enrolment process will increase the money provided by government for FSM but also for 'pupil-premium' funding that is also paid to the school for additional resourcing. This is worth £1385 per primary school child per year, so is definitely a win for the school, the child and this authority.

I'm very excited about what we are trying to do as a City here. This was never going to be easy, but if we can start with our most vulnerable and build from there, I think we can do great things to support York's young children to learn and flourish at school.

York Civic Trust – Public Speaking Competition

I was really pleased to attend the Primary School Public Speaking Competition that is run in the City by York Civic Trust. This event took place at the Merchant Adventurer's Hall and involved primary school children from across York.

I was blown away by the standard of the speaking from all of the contestants and definitely think that the young people could have given a few councillors a run for their money. The children spoke on a number of topics that had been devised by York Civic Trust but one popular question was 'has Harry Potter ruined the shambles?'; certainly a debate that could be running in York for decades to come!

My congratulations go to the young people from Lord Deramore's Primary School for their first place finish; to St. Wilfred's for second place and Hempland Primary for third place.

Raise York – Family Hubs

I am very excited about the launch of Raise York – Family Hubs. The project is slowly finding its feet ahead of a wider launch in the Autumn but this will hopefully form a one stop shop for information for families from our Family Navigators. They will be based in Hob Moor, Clifton Children's Centre and The Avenues Children's Centre in Tang Hall Primary. This is a pilot at the moment but hopefully this additional support for families will be very welcome.

Fostering – Thank You!

It would be remiss of me to not thank all of the excellent people working to support our young people in care across our City. Whether this is staff working in social care or indeed our excellent Foster Carers. Foster Carers are the life-blood of the care system and support hundreds of young people across York every day. As I don't get too many chances to report my thanks I couldn't miss an opportunity to say thank you for everything you do for our City. But also take the opportunity to ask the people of York that if you think you could be a Foster Carer and really make a difference to a young person's life then please get in touch with the council. We would love to hear from you.

Early Talk for York – Finalists for awards

I'm absolutely delighted this innovative programme has won the 'Delivering Better Outcomes' category at this year's prestigious Municipal Journal Awards.

The positive impact the project is already having on children's development is testament to the strong partnership working across the city, with nurseries, childminders, schools, health and CYC teams joining forces to make a tangible difference. Outcomes for disadvantaged children in York involved in the project are already bucking the national trend of declining speech, language and communication attainment post covid, and I hope that Early Talk for York's impact continues to grow as more and more settings get involved.

Many people have been involved in this project for quite some time now and I'd like to thank them for their efforts. This is something that has received cross-party support and is a really great example of what we can do as a council when we are forward-thinking.

The Westfield Project – Chapelfields

One of the first acts of this administration was to approve the use of Sanderson House in Chapelfields for what originally had the working title of the 'Westfield Project'. This project is aimed at bringing the venue to life and supporting adults, families and their children in the Chapelfields area. Whether that is support through food or support with homework; this project represents a real investment in York by the University of York and demonstrates the positive working relationship this administration is developing with partners across the City.

In such challenging financial times for the council, it's fantastic to see investment being made in one of our most deprived communities from an external source. As a council administration we will also do everything we can, with existing limited resources, to support those most in need.

Finances

We have seen a significant turnaround in Children's Social Care towards a stable workforce. This has seen a reduction from 8 to 0 agency managers and 26 to 6 agency social workers. In addition to this, we have seen the return of a number of young people from private high cost placements to the City. A combination of these two issues is indicating a reduced spend of around £2.7 million this year. Further work aims to further reduce the financial risk to the authority at a time when nationally we are seeing increased demand, high inflation and spiralling deficits.

Councillor Webb
Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
13 September 2023

Annex:

Annex 1 - City of York – Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report

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City of York – Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report

2022/23

Introducing our annual report

Councillor Bob Webb, Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board

Since the local elections in May it has been a privilege and a pleasure to become Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board and I genuinely believe that this is one of the most important jobs a Councillor can hold here in York. In this role I get to oversee and help steer how we look after some of our most vulnerable people; and really hear their views about how to best provide the support that we can as a City.

I would like to thank all of the staff and members who have contributed to the work of the Corporate Parenting Board over the last year as without their efforts we wouldn't have seen the necessary transformation that we have. But I would also like to extend my particular thanks to the Young People themselves; it is down to their expertise, honesty and bravery to speak up that has driven the changes that were needed.

The Corporate Parenting Board has undergone several clear changes in the last year but the key difference that I have recognised more than any other is the increased visibility of the Young People themselves. I hope that we can make that voice heard even more over time when Young People take on the role of vice-chair in future meetings.

Finally, I was very pleased to see that other members of the Council took part in the training for Corporate Parenting at the beginning of this Municipal Cycle but I would really welcome more members to come forward and seek out training and conversations about their role as a Corporate Parent. It is not just my responsibility but every member's and I'm sure that other members recognise the importance of this responsibility. We must always ask ourselves; if this was my child, would it be good enough?

Corporate Parenting Advisors

In the last year there has been such a high level of valuable change in the way that the Corporate Parenting Board listens to young people and take their views into consideration. Young people see an increased level of interest and engagement from elected members on the corporate parenting board. We now receive regular feedback and responses to issues that have been raised previously. It genuinely feels like young people are valued, heard and respected. We feel we can comfortably take about sensitive topics we need to raise.

The recent offer from the new chair of the Corporate Parenting Board to co-chair meetings shows the level of involvement the council wants from young people and validates the importance of the young people's voices in decision making across the board. In the last year young people have had chance to have their voices heard on several topics including:

- The cost-of-living crisis and what further support is needed for care leavers who are moving towards independence, or already living independently, resulting in a cost-of-living fund being set up that can be accessed when needed.
- The local authority's housing protocol and how best CYC can support young people to have a smooth transition into adulthood/ independent living. Young peoples have resulted in policy change and a full review of the joint housing protocol.
- Responses from last U matter survey - with leaders recognising and understanding the top future priorities for young people and areas they feel need to improve.

The development of the Corporate Parenting Advisor role has also made a huge difference. It has created a bridge between young people and professionals. Young people find it helpful to have advisors who are care experienced themselves, as they feel they are genuinely understand the issues they want to raise. There have been increased training opportunities for all Corporate Parents within the local authority, helping them to understand the importance of their role and how they can best support their young people. ISM/ SMTIM also now feel more confident about inviting members of the CPB to attend their meetings as they have stated they feel listened to and they can see change from the things they have raised. This feels like a very positive position to make progress from and achieve more good things next year.

Annie Whitley – Corporate Parenting Advisor

Overview of the Corporate Parenting Board

We are committed to York being an effective, caring, and ambitious corporate parent and we will do everything we can to make sure that children in our care and care leavers receive the best possible care and support.

City of York Council looks after a number of children and young people who are unable to remain in the care of their parents. When a child comes into our care the tasks of their parents become the corporate responsibility of the Council. This is known as 'corporate parenting' and it is the collective responsibility of the Council to prioritise the needs of children in care and care leavers and seek for them the same outcomes any good parent would want for their own children. A good corporate parent should regularly ask themselves "If this were my child, would it be good enough?"

The **Corporate Parenting Board** provides a leadership role by championing the specific needs of children and young people who are, or have been, looked after by the local authority. It does this through working with all elected members, officers within the Council, with colleagues from partner agencies and with children and young people.

The City of York Council constitution was update in 2022. Article 20 sets out the new governance arrangements for how Corporate Parenting Board works. The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Board is to:

- To actively listen to the views of our children and young people so that the Council is able to adapt its corporate parenting in line with their wishes, feeling and needs.
- To act as a forum where our young people are able to hold Members and Officers to account as their parents.
- To raise the awareness of the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities and knowledge among elected Members and officers.
- To support and make recommendations to relevant Council bodies on matters related to corporate parenting.

Collectively, we are fully committed to being the best parent we can be to our children. This annual report sets out the key activity and outcomes achieved in 2022/23.

Progress towards Corporate Parenting Objectives

Our Corporate Parenting and Children in Care Strategy sets out our ambition for our children and young people and care leavers and how we intend to fulfil our corporate parenting responsibilities and strategic priorities in a way which puts children and young people and care leavers at the centre of improvements in the planning, delivery and evaluation of our services.

Objective 1 – Our Children and Young People have a voice in the way we deliver our services and we will act upon what they tell us.

The Ofsted inspection of children's services in March 2022 noted that young people reported not being sufficiently listened to by corporate parents. The report recognised work was already under way to strengthen the involvement of children and young people including their direct attendance at the Corporate Parenting Board.

In 2022/23:

- The updated council constitution made clear the commitment to ensuring children and young people had a voice and were heard. This meant care experienced young people being supported to directly attend the meetings and take part. The structure of the meetings was adapted to reflect feedback from young people about how they wanted to see them run.
- We have continued to fund the role of Corporate Parenting Advisors in 2022/23 to help gain the unique insights of people with care experience. These advisors play a vital link in gathering the views and experiences of children and young people and directly attend the Corporate Parenting Board.
- Corporate Parenting Advisors have developed and delivered corporate parenting training to elected members and staff across housing. Following the local elections in May the Director of Children's Service and Corporate Parenting Advisor jointly delivered a briefing on corporate parenting as part of induction for all councillors.
- Show Me That I Matter and I Still Matter are the groups that make up York's Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum. The groups give young people in care and care leavers the opportunity to share their views and help shape and influence the services and policies that affect them and other children and young people in and leaving care.

- In 2022/23 a total of 56 children and young people have been engaged in some shape or other through the work of the groups. This represents 22% of care experienced young people in York. This group has played an important role in young people being able to share their views and be heard. A full annual report for these group is available and a summary of key areas of development in the last year is shown below.
 - **My Things Matter** – Following direct feedback from young people the City of York Council has now signed up to the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) ‘My Things Matter’ pledge. This pledge is a commitment about how young people’s belongings would be treated if they need to move.
 - **Independent Care Review** - York's Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum had their say last year about the proposed changes to improve Social Care for Children across the UK as part of the Independent Care Review. This included young people attending an event at Parliament to share directly with decision makers the views of care experienced children from York.
 - **Care Plan Documents** - Show Me That I Matter have had their say in creating a template Care Plan for Children and Young People in Care. This means young people will have their own copy of their plan, written and displayed in a way which is appropriate for them and contains everything they need to know. Young people decided what content was needed, how it should be worded and what these should look like.
- In 2022/23 the Corporate Parenting Board is able to demonstrate clear action as a result of input from children and young people.
 - **Housing** – Following feedback from care experienced young people the Corporate Parenting Board directed the development of a Care Experienced Young People Housing Protocol. The final version of this protocol was considered by the Corporate Parenting Board in March 2023 and is now in place.
 - **Cost of living** - Corporate Parenting Advisors gathered views from care experienced young people about the impact of the cost of living crisis. The Corporate Parenting Board directed action to support care experienced young people to access additional support. This included creating a dedicated

fund of £50k to support care experienced young people at this time.

- **UMatter** – The U Matter survey is undertaken with children in care or with care experience once every two years. The last survey was undertaken in 2021 and the Corporate Parenting Board has had oversight of the action plan addressing the points raised by children and young people.
- **Local Offer** – The Corporate Parenting Advisors presented the views of young people around the current Local Offer for children leaving care. In 2022 the Local Offer document was updated with information reflecting input from young people.

Objective 2 - Children and Young People in York can remain safely at home

We aim to provide the right support at the right time for children and young people to keep them safe at home.

In the last year we have worked hard to create more stability and consistency in the intervention we provide to families and their and have developed ways to manage and progress safety plans to keep children at home. We are inviting more family members to meetings and including them in safety planning.

We have seen a reduction in the number of court proceedings we have issued and also an increased use of pre-proceedings to ensure that work and intervention is in place in a timely way and to prevent children being removed from home wherever possible. Developing positive relationships with families early on in our involvement helps build trust and we can talk through important and challenging issues in order to create safety and well-being for children at home. Direct work with children and giving them the chance to talk openly to safe people inside and outside of their home means quicker and more meaningful responses through a multi-agency plan.

We will continue work with our social work teams and our partner to ensure that we implement and use our model of practice to provide consistent and supportive intervention for families to ensure children are safe. Signs of Safety is providing a platform for us to develop our analysis of risk and safety and also ensure children, parents and their networks have an understanding of what the worries are and how we are going to work together to address them.

In addition, the Corporate Parenting Board considered the Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report. The board explored with the Head of One Adoption North and Humber the reasons behind reducing numbers coming forward to adopt across the region, challenges within care proceedings, and how long some children wait to be adopted.

Objective 3 - Our Care Leavers in York have a comprehensive 'Local Offer'

The Corporate Parenting Board had oversight of developments to the Local Offer for Care Leavers. The 'Local Offer' for care leavers which sets out practical support for care-experienced young as they move into independence. The Local Offer was strengthened based on feedback received from our care-experienced young people. Notable improvements include enhanced accommodation options, increased weekly allowances aligned with inflation, and the inclusion of gym membership and swimming lessons.

Efforts have been made to improve communication and understanding of the Local Offer, and it will undergo a more in-depth review in 2023. Additionally, the Corporate Parenting Board aims to be more ambitious in supporting care-experienced young people, focusing on areas such as apprenticeships, health, and building important relationships.

Financial support for care-experienced young people has been facilitated through the creation of a dedicate cost-of-living fund.

In relation to council tax, discussions are ongoing to explore a graduated exemption for care-experienced young people, taking into account their views and benchmarking against other local authorities.

The Corporate Parenting Board remains dedicated to providing exceptional care and support to children in our care and care leavers. The ongoing development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy, along with improvements to the Local Offer and other key areas, reflects our commitment to continually enhancing the lives of care-experienced young people.

Objective 4 – Children and Young People will be supported in their Education, Employment and Training.

The Corporate Parenting Board reviewed the annual report of the Virtual School Head. The annual report provided a summary of the Virtual School cohort for the academic year 2021/22.

The strengths and areas for improvement identified through the Virtual School's self-evaluation were discussed. These included Personal Education Plans (PEPs), cohort summary, attendance, suspensions/exclusions, placement moves, collaborative working, outcome data, and analysis. The Board was informed that attendance for children and young people in care in school figures for Years 1 to 11 had increased from 85% to 89.5% in the 2022/23 academic year, with a reduction in persistent absence across the cohorts.

The Corporate Parenting Board was encouraged to see an improving percentage of children in care aged 3-18 with a Personal Education Plan updated within the last 6 months. At the end of 2022/23 this stood at 89.79% compared to 77.16% at the end of 2021/22.

The Corporate Parenting Board has agreed to make education for children and young people in care a priority. The Virtual School Head has now joined as a permanent member of the Corporate Parenting Board.

Objective 5 – Children and Young People will have a suitable place to live and be cared for, secured through timely permanence planning.

We are continuing to work with children, their families and their networks to support children at home.

Where we cannot support a child remaining safely with their parents, we aim to plan alongside them and their network to find the best alternative to develop safety and aim for children to be reunited with their parents at home wherever possible.

Early discussions with children and their parents during our initial assessments, multiagency meetings and interventions mean that we will get to know who is important to them and who is available to be there to support a child and keep them safe.

Work is being completed in pre-proceedings to identify potential alternative plans for children and parallel planning so that delays in court will be reduced and stability and long-term planning can be decided at the earliest possible time.

Having a tight network of support in place for families means that if concerns escalate or we cannot find the safety we need at home we already have links and a relationship with those around them to help them plan for next steps. Safety plans and family arrangements for

children are more effective when developed by the family themselves and we continue to support them not only with immediate risk and planning but long-term permanent and stable plans for children who cannot remain at home.

In the last year there has been increased focus and support around children placed with parents or under special guardianship orders. There is an increased focus on developing different permanence options and we expect to see the impact of this in 2023/24. The sufficiency of suitable places to live and the further development of permanence planning remains a priority into the next year.

Objective 6 – The Health and Wellbeing of our Children and Young People will be a priority for City of York Council.

Performance in relation to Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) is shared at every Corporate Parenting Board. An Initial Health Assessment (IHA) is a comprehensive evaluation conducted when a child or young person enters the care of the Local Authority. It aims to assess their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, identify any pre-existing health conditions or specific needs, and develop a personalized care plan to ensure they receive appropriate medical care and support during their time in care.

The Corporate Parenting Board is aware of the challenges and factors contributing to low performance in completing IHAs on time. These challenges included delays in receiving requests from social care and scheduling paediatric appointments.

Over the course of 2022/23 the number of IHAs completed within 20 working days has increased. This improvement is attributed to the positive impact of weekly meetings between Children's Service and Health, facilitating prompt initiation of necessary actions for children and young people entering the care of the Local Authority.

Efforts within social work teams have also focused on obtaining up-to-date health information for children entering care to ensure they receive the necessary support. These discussions are now integral to pre-placement considerations and ongoing reviews.

The Corporate Parenting Board understands the importance of involving children and young people in the development and improvement of the IHA process. Consultations with York's Children in Care Council have been conducted, and the plan is to continue gathering feedback from

care-experienced young people. This feedback will inform the development of flow charts and processes to support and encourage their participation in IHA appointments.

The Corporate Parenting Board is assured by stronger performance in relation to Review Health Assessments, which remains under close attention. At the end of 2022/23, the percentage of children and young people in care for more than one year with an up-to-date health assessment was 90.54%. This exceeds the national average of 89.00% and the figure for statistical neighbours, which stands at 87.80%. Similarly, 79.28% of children in care for more than one year had an up-to-date dental check, surpassing the national figure of 70.00% and the statistical neighbours' rate of 67.40%, albeit slightly lower than the previous year's performance of 85.91%.

The Corporate Parenting Board is committed to improving the performance of Initial Health Assessments while involving children and young people in the process. The report highlights both the challenges faced and the positive steps taken to enhance the timeliness and quality of IHAs, with the aim of providing the best possible support to children and young people in care.

The Virtual School has a Specialist Inclusion and Wellbeing Adviser who provides consultation for staff in schools and early years settings to identify SEMH needs in children and young people in care. Strategies and approaches bespoke to that individual child are then identified in order to support their readiness to learn. In the last year specifically, this role has extended in order to include partnership working with carers and CSC staff. It also provides a level of consultancy for CSC staff so that resources/approaches around supporting the SEMH needs of children in care, can be shared more widely.

The Specialist Inclusion and Well-being Adviser works closely with the School Wellbeing Service to provide joint consultation where necessary to ensure the child/young person accesses the right support/intervention.

Work has begun to develop our approach residential and outreach support through Wenlock Terrace and having secured funds to launch a Staying Close model. We have secured ongoing committed funding for one full-time Clinical Psychologist and a part-time Speech and Language Therapist to support this provision. They have been funded by health but will be managed by Children's Social Care.

The role of the Clinical Psychologist is to work closely with the Outreach and Residential Care Practitioners to support young people and their families to repair, restore and sustain relationships, with the principle aim of young people remaining or returning to the care of their family networks.

The Clinical Psychology provision will also provide direct support under the Staying Close provision, ensuring that pathway planning to independence is underpinned by strong formulation and that young people's overall mental health and well-being needs are understood, appropriately met and that they have access to services within their local communities. This is dedicated Clinical Psychology provision to young people leaving care and will provide a responsive and person-centred approach to enabling young people to be successful.

To support the success of this new role, we are further investing in our Clinical Psychology provision with the recruitment of a Consultant Clinical Psychologist to work across children's services, with a particular focus on safeguarding. This is a senior specialist clinical role that will provide professional supervision and work closely with teams in the identification and management of risk in line with our Signs of Safety practice model.

Objective 7 - Our Children and Young People are protected from harm and/or Risk of Exploitation

The City of York has Children's Social Care has a specialist Children Missing and Exploitation Team. The aim of the team is to identify children most at risk of exploitation in the City and provide support and intervention to reduce the risk of harm/exploitation, with a strong ethos of direct work and engagement with young people, their families and working within their networks.

The team work closely, alongside Police, Health, Education, Youth Justice Service colleagues and the community safeguarding partnership. As well as supporting young people who are at risk of or experiencing exploitation, Children Missing and Exploitation Team support Social Care by raising awareness of exploitation, providing key role in learning and development, hosting group supervision, and working alongside teams to improve responses to exploitation.

Children Missing and Exploitation Team are pivotal in addressing concerns in respect of contextual safeguarding. The service manager of

the team works closely with multiagency partners; chairing the Multi Agency Child Exploitation Meeting, Risk Assessment Meeting and National Referral Mechanism meetings. This ensures the consistent sharing of information in respect of contextual safeguarding and contributing to the disruption of perpetrators or persons of concern.

The City of York are signed up to a joint protocol with North Yorkshire County Council and North Yorkshire Police in respect of Children who go missing from Home and Care. City of York respond promptly to incidents where children go missing, with the Volunteer Service completing return from home interviews on situations where the young person is known to Children's Services or Early Help. This ensures the young person has an independent person to share their worries with. Children Missing and Exploitation Team and the Volunteer Service work closely together, sharing information about contextual safeguarding concerns and ensuring these are discussed at the Multi Agency Child Exploitation Meeting, to pull together actions with partners across the Safeguarding Partnership to disrupt contextual safeguarding concerns. Following our Ofsted inspection in 2022 we have developed training on the return interview process for all practitioners and service managers to ensure that information is better analysed and used to inform planning for children. In addition to this, our in-house volunteer team now creates a monthly data report looking at all missing episodes to track data trends and identify patterns.

Weekly missing meetings are held between Children's Social Care and North Yorkshire Police reviewing all missing episodes within that week to quickly identify emerging issues and concerns. Monthly missing meetings are held between Children's Social Care and North Yorkshire Police review children who have been missing five occasions or more times within 90 days and ensuring appropriate multi-agency oversight of missing plans and sharing of information.

Objective 8 - Children and Young People in our Care and Care leavers' achievements are celebrated

In the last 12 months there have been a number of events and forums created to ensure that Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers across our local authority feel that their successes are appropriately celebrated and their achievements recognised in a meaningful way.

Fun and engaging events held on National Care Day and during Care Leavers Week in 2023 were well attended and focused on celebrating young people's achievements – with social workers, pathway workers and advocates invited to attend, as members of the CYC village of workers who support young people's journeys. Elected members and leaders have attended these events and joined in fun activities including bake off competitions. Young people have also been consulted as part of these events.

Young people have been nominated for awards both internally and externally, with nominations made for young people in the 'Amplify' National Voice Awards and Community Pride Awards for their outstanding work. Young people who have engaged with advocacy work had their work submitted and published in the launch edition of '*Change through Advocacy*', an annual publication created by children, young people and advocates, with support from the Article 39 team.

Young people who offer their time and experience to support interview panels or attend the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers forums have been provided certificates to acknowledge their work and the value of their involvement recognised through stamps which add up to a small reward.

[Future priorities and new Corporate Parenting Strategy](#)

The Corporate Parenting Board has actively collaborated with children and young people to fulfil our responsibilities as corporate parents. Through meaningful engagement, we have strived to ensure that the council and our partners meet the needs and rights of children in our care and care leavers. In line with our commitment to continuous improvement, a new Corporate Parenting Strategy is currently being developed. This strategy will establish our strategic priorities, aiming to provide the best possible care and support for children and young people in our care and as they transition into adulthood.

Councillor Webb
Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board

Council**21 September 2023****Report of the Chair of the Customer Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSCCSMC)**

This is my first report as Chair, and I'd like to start by thanking Democratic Services and my Vice Chair, Cllr Merrett, for their support since May in putting in place revised scrutiny arrangements. I would also like to thank my predecessor, Cllr Crawshaw, for his work in helping to define the scope of the new Scrutiny committees.

All members had the opportunity to attend (or watch a recording of) a training session run by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. It was a very helpful session which highlighted the importance of effective work planning and scrutiny's role as a 'critical friend' in helping to inform future decisions and identifying areas for improvement in how the council and its partners deliver services that affect residents.

Under the revised arrangements, what was CCSMC has taken on the climate change portfolio from the previous Climate Change Scrutiny Committee, which has been abolished. I am conscious of the need to maintain a focus on this important policy area, rather than it be seen as an 'add on' to the previous committee's areas of responsibility.

There are now three scrutiny committees which sit alongside CSCCSMC:

- Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee
- Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

It has taken new and old members alike some time to get to grips with the scope of each committee, which span a number of Directorates and areas of Executive Member responsibility. Although there are fewer scrutiny committees than previously, each committee will meet monthly, with the aim being to not have meetings in February and August (though some flexibility will be needed).

As per the expectation set out in the council's constitution, the first meeting of each committee in the municipal year was an informal meeting at which members, officers and relevant Executive Members could discuss areas of policy and service delivery where scrutiny might be able to add value, with a view to helping to inform future decisions.

These meetings were then followed by a meeting of members to discuss a draft Work Plan, to be subject to public scrutiny at the first formal meeting of the committee.

I attended the first informal meeting for each committee and was encouraged by the conversations which took place. I would like to thank the Chairs and Vice Chairs for their work in managing these meetings and subsequently pulling together draft Work Plans, and also officers and Executive Members for their positive participation.

With each committee having a broader scope of responsibilities than previously, it will be more important to use the time and officer resource available wisely in order to focus on issues where scrutiny can have maximum influence and impact. There will of course continue to be reports that committees are statutorily obliged to receive and which are often simply to note, and agenda items that are focused largely on holding officers and Executive Members to account for the delivery of agreed policies, but I hope that in the coming months committee members will have the opportunity to engage in some pre-decision scrutiny.

Committee members will also have the opportunity to get involved in some time-limited scrutiny reviews on specific topics. I know that committees have already identified some topics, and I look forward to seeing the outputs of this work.

At the time of writing this report, there has been one formal scrutiny committee meeting held (Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee) and the Chair, Cllr Nicholls, reports that he has been well supported by his Vice Chair and has raised the possibility of some additional training for members in effective approaches to chairing and inquiring, which is something I will pick up with officers. Cllr Nicholls also notes that he has acquired a couple examples of a flow chart guide on how to scrutinise, which sounds like a helpful tool.

In future reports I would hope to include a brief update from all Chairs, as by that stage all committees will have started their programme of public meetings.

Councillor Fenton
Chair of the Customer Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny
Management Committee
13 September 2023



Full Council**21 September 2023**

Report of the Director of Governance
(Portfolio of the Executive Leader)

Hessay Parish Council – Use of Reserve Powers of Principal Council**Summary**

1. This report invites Council to consider the appointment of Councillors Anne Hook and Emilie Knight to Hessay Parish Council under powers conferred by S91 of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the Parish Council becomes quorate and can continue to function.

Recommendations

2. Council is recommended to:
 - a. Make the order attached to appoint Councillors Anne Hook and Emilie Knight;
 - b. Delegate authority to the Director of Governance to submit copies of the order made to the Secretary of State as required by the legislation.

Reason: To bring Hessay Parish Council up to quorum so that it can continue to function.

Background

3. No nominations were received for Hessay Parish Council at the May 2023 Local and Parish Elections.

4. Since May 2023, Notice of Election inviting nominations for Hessay Parish Council has twice been given by the Returning Officer on 17 May 2023 and 29 June 2023 respectively.
5. The first notice resulted in receipt of a nomination for John Savage who was subsequently declared elected.
6. No nominations ensued from the second notice.
7. There are 5 seats on Hessay Parish Council and only 1 is currently filled. Quorum is 3.
8. A principal council has the following reserve powers under S91 of the Local Government Act 1972:

Where there are so many vacancies in the office of parish or community councillor that the parish or community council are unable to act, the district council [or Welsh principal council] may by order appoint persons to fill all or any of the vacancies until other councillors are elected and take up office.

9. Guidance from the Association of Electoral Administrators suggests that a minimum of two election re runs is desirable before reserve powers are used. That guidance has been followed in this case.
10. Once a Parish Council becomes quorate it may utilise its own powers under Section 21(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1985 to co-opt a person or persons to fill any remaining vacancies. For this reason the Section 91 power is entitled "Temporary appointment of members of parish and community councils".

Options

11. To agree to make the order appointing the City Councillors for Rural West Ward to Hessay Parish Council. This option is preferred as it ensures the relevant local knowledge can be brought to bear in the continuing operation of the Parish Council.
12. To agree an order appointing alternative persons. This would ensure the Parish Council can continue to function.

13. To refuse to make any order. This option is not recommended as it effectively leaves Hessay Parish Council paralysed pending a governance review.

Analysis

14. It may be considered that the best way to constitute a Parish Council is in accordance with a democratic process which gives direct effect to the wishes of local residents. It is not however uncommon for small parishes to experience a level of voter apathy. Reserve powers exist to ensure that Parish Councils do not become paralysed through a lack of quoracy. Exercising that function through full council preserves the democratic ethos.

Council Plan and Policy Framework

15. Making temporary appointments to Hessay Parish Council will ensure it can continue to function thereby empowering local communities.

Implications

16. There are no direct resource or equality implications.
17. The proposed order is in accordance with the statutory provisions set out in the Local Government Act 1972.

Risk Management

18. If the Council does not agree to make any temporary appointment order Hessay Parish Council cannot make any decisions.

Contact Details

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Job Title: Director of Governance

Report Approved

Yes

Date 17 July 2023

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex 1 Proposed Appointment Order

Abbreviations used in this report: None

**Order made under Section 91(1) of Local Government Act 1972:
Hessay Parish Council (Temporary Appointment of Members) Order
2023**

THIS ORDER is made on theday of two thousand and
Twenty three by CITY OF YORK COUNCIL (“The Council”)

1. WHEREAS following the publication of Notices of Election for Hessay Parish Council on 27th March 2023, 17th May 2023 and 29th June 2023 only one Parish Councillor was nominated and declared duly elected, three councillors are required for a quorum.
2. Under section 91 of the Local Government Act where there are so many vacancies in the office of Parish Councillor that the Parish Council is no longer able to act, City of York Council may, by order, appoint persons to fill all or any of the vacancies until other councillors take office.

NOW in pursuance of the Power conferred upon it by Section 91(1) Local Government Act 1972, the Council hereby appoints the following persons to act as Members of Hessay Parish Council until new Councillors have been co-opted to fill such vacancies as shall constitute and reestablish a quorum on the Parish Council whereupon such appointments and this Order shall cease:

Councillor Anne Hook Rural West York Ward
Councillor Emilie Knight Rural West York Ward

The COMMON SEAL of
City of York Council
Was hereunto affixed in the presence of

.....

Authorised Signatory

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**Appointments and Changes to Membership of Committees,
Working Groups and Outside Bodies 2023-24**

To note and confirm the following:

Committees

Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Vassie as Vice Chair.

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Councillor Cuthbertson as Vice Chair

Local Plan Working Group

Councillor Ayre as Vice Chair

Outside Bodies

Ainsty 2008 Internal Drainage Board (IDB)

Councillor Hook to fill the vacancy representing Upper Poppleton PC.

Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)

Councillor Lomas to fill the vacancy representing Labour group.

Foss 2008 Internal Drainage Board (IDB)

Councillor Pearson to fill the vacancy representing Haxby Town Council.

Joint Member Working group on the Joint Mineral and Waste Plan

Councillor Ravilious to fill the vacancy representing Labour group.

Kyle and Upper Ouse Internal Drainage Board

Councillor Hook to fill the vacancy representing Upper Poppleton PC.

Councillor Stead to fill the vacancy representing Skelton PC.

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities)

Councillor Cuthbertson to fill the vacancy representing Liberal Democrat group.

Local Transport Plan Steering Group

To include an additional place to appoint Cllr Steward representing Conservative group.

North Yorkshire Pension Fund - Local Pension Board

Councillor Crawshaw is no longer appointed to this Board.
To appoint to the 1 vacancy that still remains. TBC.

Schools Effectiveness and Achievement Monitoring group

Councillor Clarke to fill the vacancy representing Labour group.
Councillor Nelson to fill the vacancy representing Labour group as a substitute.
Councillors Cuthbertson and Runciman to fill the vacancies representing Liberal Democrat group.

Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust

Councillor Steels-Walshaw to be removed as a sub.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Waller to fill Liberal Democrat group vacancy.

Yorkshire and Humber (Local Authorities) Employers Association

Councillor Lomas to fill vacancy representing Labour group.

York Wheels Ltd

Councillor Kelly to fill vacancy representing Labour group.