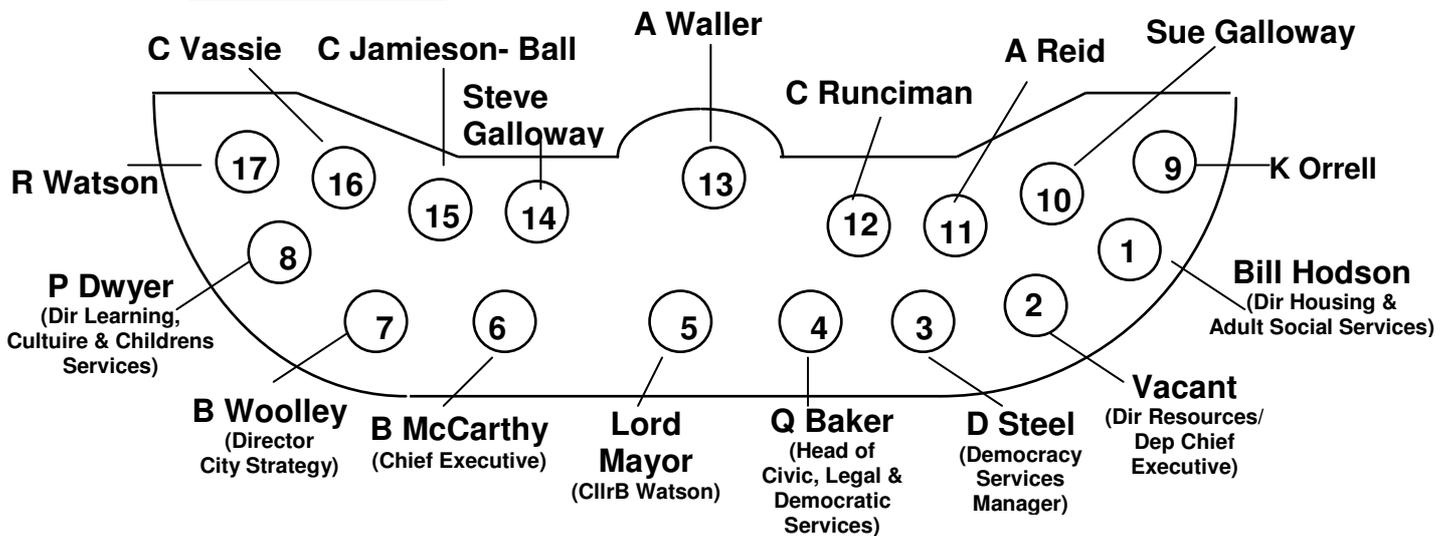
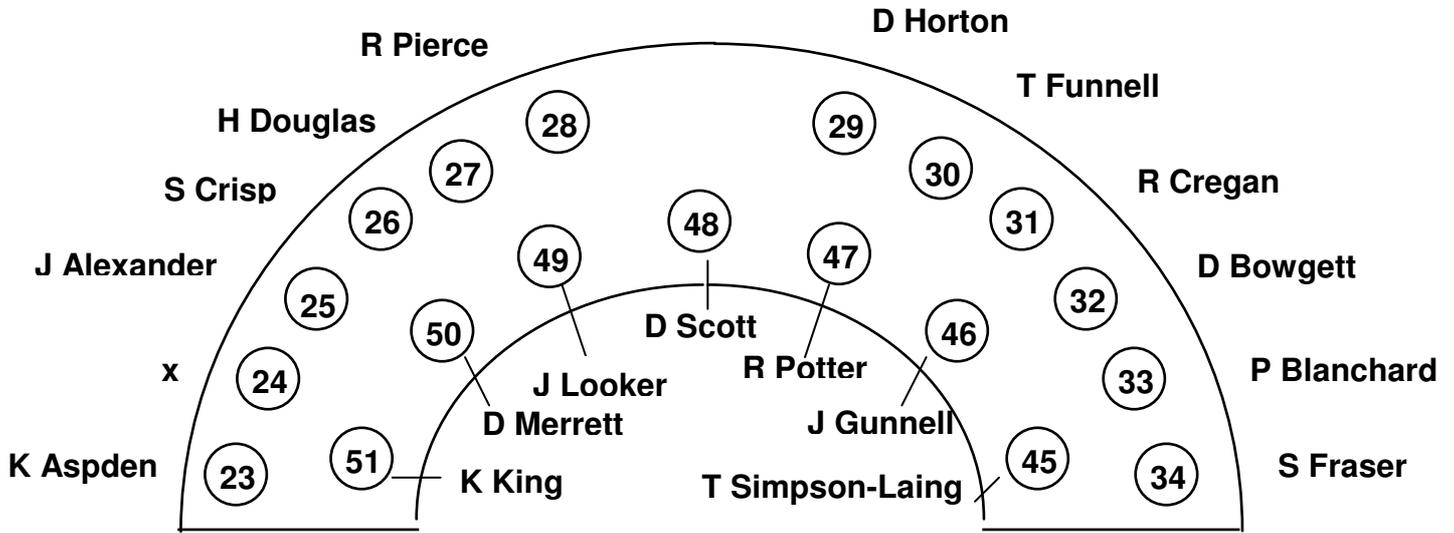


CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

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

Thursday, 25 September 2008 at 6.30 pm

COUNCIL CHAMBER



A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 22)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 June 2008.

3. Civic Announcements

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

4. Public Participation

It is at this point in the meeting that members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the remit of Council may do so. Anyone who wishes to register, or requires further information, is requested to contact the Democracy Officer for this meeting. Contact details are listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Wednesday, 24 September 2008**.

5. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order No.7. To date, notice has been received of petitions to be presented by:

- a) Cllr Wiseman, on behalf of residents of Strensall, concerning drainage, road surfacing and white lining in their area.
- b) Cllr Potter, on behalf of residents who want to see the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in residential streets in York.
- c) Cllr Simpson-Laing, on behalf of residents of Newlands Drive, seeking traffic measures to stop 'rat running' in their street as a consequence of the Manor School Traffic Project.

- d) Cllr Hogg, on behalf of residents of Haxby objecting to the proposed erection of a 'phone mast in Oak Tree Lane, Haxby.
- e) Cllr Douglas, on behalf of residents, regarding the Crichton Avenue Cycle Track.
- f) Cllr Douglas, on behalf of residents of Clifton Dale, requesting the Council to consider adequate provision for cyclists and pedestrians on Clifton Green.

6. Notices of Motion

To consider the following Notices of Motion under Standing Order 11:

A – Motions referred from the Executive in accordance with Standing Order 11(a)(i)

None

B – Motions submitted for consideration directly by Council, in accordance with Standing Orders 11(a)(ii)

(i) From Cllr Vassie

“Council notes that :

1) Almost a quarter of people in the UK are expected to be in fuel poverty by next year. Average household electricity bills are already expected to increase to more than £500 per year by 2010, and gas bills to around £900.

2) The Government has announced its intention to introduce a £910m package, paid for by energy companies, which is designed to tackle fuel poverty through a number of measures.

3) Worthwhile investment has been made this year to improve smart metering – the displaying of energy consumption - in approximately 20 council buildings.

4) Energy companies have profited from a £9 billion windfall from the EU emissions trading scheme and are therefore able to contribute significantly more to increasing energy efficiency and cutting bills than the Government's

package recommends.

Council believes that :

The measures of the Government's £910m package do not go far enough; they will not reduce fuel bills in the short term, and do not place a mandatory condition on energy companies to not pass the cost of this package onto the consumer, despite the emissions trading windfall.

Council resolves to:

1) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business to request that energy companies use this windfall, rather than pass the cost onto the customer, and to provide:

- A national home insulation programme, as proposed by the Local Government Association, which would use £500m a year from energy companies to ensure that 500, 000 people are lifted out of fuel poverty as well as sustain locally generated employment
- Social tariffs, to ensure that the 2.25 million people on pre-payment meters are not unfairly penalised by disproportionately high bills, costing the energy companies in the region of £275m a year.
- A wide scale introduction of smart meters in people's homes to record consumption rates, allowing consumers to know where changes can be made in their energy use to reduce bills.

2) Work with the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre for York to assist with the promotion of smart metering in residents homes to help people facing fuel poverty in the city.

3) Request that council officers investigate the inclusion of smart metering in Tenants Choice."

(ii) From Cllr Scott

"This Council notes the inability of the controlling Lib Dem Executive to deliver major capital projects for the City.

- It has failed to deliver the re-provision of the Peasholme Hostel on time and within budget
- It has failed to deliver the reprovision of City Centre swimming.

- It has failed to deliver the Auditorium at the Barbican
- It has failed to deliver the Council HQ building at the Hungate site within the time scales promised.

Council notes that the Executive has now spent or committed £4.8 million of public money on the Hungate HQ project - without laying a single brick. Council considers the Lib Dem Executive's failures in these projects to be one of gross incompetence and mismanagement.

Council notes that ownership and responsibility for the project will now reside with the Director for City Strategy and wish him every success.

Council calls for similar changes in the Executive by the resignation of the Executive Member for City Strategy, Cllr Steve Galloway who must take ultimate responsibility for the catalogue of bad decisions when he was Leader of the Council.

Council requests the Executive Leader to take personal control and responsibility of all the projects to ensure the delivery of :

- the Peasholme Centre
 - the new Council HQ
 - the Community Stadium
- on time and on budget.

Council requests a monthly report from the Executive Leader from October to all elected members detailing the progress of these and future important developments in the City."

(iii) From Cllr Galvin:

"To aid the development of the Terrys Site the Council instructs the appropriate officers to treat as a matter of urgency the need for a Link Road between Bishopthorpe Road and Sim Balk Lane to the south side of the A64. Officers are therefore instructed to report to the Full Council as soon as possible addressing the following options:

- 1) the potential for funding the Link Road, with a contribution from Developers and other sources ;or
- 2) the possibility of entering into discussions with the land owners of the proposed route of such link road with the view to allowing some development for the purpose of funding a Link Road.

Such report to investigate the possibility of constructing a new junction to the west of London Bridge to facilitate speedy access on to the A64 slip roads.”

(iv) From Cllr Potter

“Council instructs the Director of City Strategy to report to the Executive on the implications of working with the City’s bus providers to extend the Yozone card to all young people in full time education up to the age of 19 years.”

(v) From Cllr Waller

“Council notes;

1. The offer by Leeds City Region Leaders to provide brownfield sites for eco-friendly development in the sub-region in lieu of a single site for an “eco-town”
2. That one of these locations was York North West, which had recently been the subject of an unsuccessful bid by the council for New Growth Point funding.
3. That should this funding become available then it would help to underpin the major investment in transport and other infrastructure required if the project is to start in the short term. It would also ensure that more sustainability is built into the design features of the development, and would help to ensure that more affordable housing is provided on the site.

Council requests that an all party delegation from City of York Council be formed to meet with the appropriate Minister with a view to making the case for York North West to receive central government “eco” / growth point funding.”

7. Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations (Pages 23 - 52)

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

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Executive	29 July 2008	Minute 51 – Web Casting of Council Meetings <i>(the report considered by the Executive on this item is attached at pages 33-52)</i> Minute 52 – Update on Carry Forward Issues and Key Considerations in the Allocation of Surplus Resources

8. Report of Executive Member (Pages 53 - 58)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, and to question the Executive Member thereon, provided any such questions are registered in accordance with the timescales and procedures set out in Standing Order 8(2)(a).

9. Questions to the Executive Leader and Executive Members received under Standing Order 10(c)

To deal with the following questions to the Executive Leader and / or other Executive Members, in accordance with Standing Order 10(a):

- (i) To the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:
“Can the Executive Member inform Council of when she last visited the ‘Family Accommodation’ at Ordnance Lane and could she comment whether she would be happy to live in the flat(s) herself?”

10. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (Pages 59 - 60)

To receive a report from Councillor Galvin, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC.

11. Activities of Outside Bodies

Minutes of the following meetings of outside bodies, received since the last meeting of Council, have been made available for Members to view via the Council's website at

<http://sql003.york.gov.uk/mgListOutsideBodies.asp?bcr=1>

Copies may also be obtained by contacting Democracy Support Group at the Guildhall, York (tel. 01904 551088).

- Local Government Yorkshire and Humberside- meeting in June 2008 (*Still waiting for approved minutes and exact date*)
- North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority- meeting on 18/06/08
- Pension Fund Sub-Committee – meeting on 25/06/08
- North Yorkshire Police Authority – meeting on 30/06/08
- Quality Bus Partnership – meeting on 19/06/08
- Regional Transport Forum – meeting on 19/06/08
- Safer York Partnership – meeting on 10/07/08
- Yorkshire and Humber Assembly – meeting on 26/06/08

Members are invited to put any questions to the Council's representatives on the above bodies, in accordance with Standing Order 10(b).

12. Appointments and Changes to Membership (Pages 61 - 64)

To consider the appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies set out on the list attached to this summons.

13. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer for this meeting:

Name: Fiona Young

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551027
- E-mail – fiona.young@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

Contact details are set out above.

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Monday, 30th June, 2008, starting at 6.30 pm

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

ACOMB WARD

Horton
Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Galvin

CLIFTON WARD

Douglas
King
Scott

DERWENT WARD**DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD**

Holvey
Reid
Sunderland

FISHERGATE WARD

D'Agorne
Taylor

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Firth
Hogg
R Watson

HESLINGTON WARD

Jamieson-Ball

HEWORTH WARD

Blanchard
Funnell
Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Bowgett

HULL ROAD WARD

Cregan
Pierce

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore
Watt
I Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Kirk
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brooks and Crisp

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. The following interests were declared:

Cllr Scott:

- a personal and prejudicial interest in Motion (ii) (Local Authority Business Growth Incentive), insofar as it related to residents' parking fees, as a resident of a Respark area;
- a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 (Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations from the meeting on 30 June), with regard to any references in Statement of Accounts to Equal Pay claims, as a solicitor specialising in Equal Pay issues.

Cllr Taylor - a personal and prejudicial interest in Motion (ii), insofar as it related to residents' parking fees, as a resident of a Respark area.

Cllr Fraser – a personal, and possibly prejudicial, interest in Motion (ii), insofar as it related to residents' parking fees, as a resident of a Respark area.

Cllr Blanchard – a personal interest in Motion (iii) (Local Rail Services), as a resident of Strensall.

Cllr Merrett – a personal interest in Motion (iii), as an employee of Corus Rail.

Cllr Simpson-Laing – a personal interest in Agenda Item 7, insofar as it related to the decision on the Back Park Petition (Minute 16 of the Executive meeting on 17 June), as a member of the Friends of Back Park.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 10 April 2008 and the Annual Council meeting held on 22 May 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

15. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no civic announcements.

16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor reported that there had been one registration to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Sam Southgate, of the National Union of Journalists, spoke in relation to the effect of redundancies on staff at the Press newspaper in York. He informed the Council that 12% of the workforce were due to be made redundant by the

end of July. This would exacerbate the problems caused by understaffing, overwork and low pay and would undermine the capacity of the Press to support local democracy. He urged Members to support the NUJ's campaign for quality journalism and to make a public statement of concern if possible.

17. PETITIONS

Under Standing Order 7, Cllr Looker presented a petition on behalf of residents of the Walmgate area, calling for measures to deal with traffic issues on Walmgate itself.

RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to the Executive or appropriate committee.¹

Action Required

1. Include item on Forward Plan for Executive / EMAP and JB write report to meet appropriate deadlines.

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Child Poverty

It was moved by Cllr Runciman and seconded by Cllr Vassie that:

“Council notes that:

- 1) Despite being one of the wealthiest countries in the world, Britain has one in five of its children living in poverty.
- 2) This is the second successive year that national figures have failed to improve, with the number of children living in relative poverty having risen by 100,000.
- 3) Child poverty has only fallen by an estimated 15% since 1998, when the Government set its target to halve it by 2010 and abolish it completely by 2020.
- 4) Approximately 14% of York's children live in poverty, and despite this being below the national average of 20% this is still unacceptable.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and to the 4 MPs for the City of York Council area to request that the Government re-affirms its commitment to halving child poverty by 2010, by investing £2.8bn a year to tackle the issue of increasing child poverty in Britain.”

Cllr Merrett then moved, and Cllr Looker seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“In the second paragraph (beginning ‘*Council requests*’), after ‘*schools and families*’ add ‘, to the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Opposition Spokespersons’ and after ‘Government re-affirms’ add ‘, with the support of other political parties,’.

After the final paragraph, add:

'Council also requests that officer time be committed, consistent with its commitment to NI116, to addressing the issues locally which can help to reduce child poverty, namely:

- Better promotion of benefit take-up
- Providing additional support through services such as Future Prospects to help improve employment prospects
- Better support to schools and families from disadvantaged backgrounds such as providing funding for extra-curricular activities to raise aspirations.

Council calls for an Action Plan officer report on the geographic areas suffering with the highest levels of child poverty in the City, with suggested measures, such as those already detailed, with a view to Council taking its own responsibilities in equal measure to the Government.”

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“Council notes that:

- 1) Despite being one of the wealthiest countries in the world, Britain has one in five of its children living in poverty.
- 2) This is the second successive year that national figures have failed to improve, with the number of children living in relative poverty having risen by 100,000.
- 3) Child poverty has only fallen by an estimated 15% since 1998, when the Government set its target to halve it by 2010 and abolish it completely by 2020.
- 4) Approximately 14% of York’s children live in poverty, and despite this being below the national average of 20% this is still unacceptable.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, to the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Opposition Spokespersons and to the 4 MPs for the City of York Council area to request that the Government re-affirms, with the support of other political parties, its commitment to halving child poverty by 2010, by investing £2.8bn a year to tackle the issue of increasing child poverty in Britain.¹

'Council also requests that officer time be committed, consistent with its commitment to NI116, to addressing the issues locally which can help to reduce child poverty, namely:

- Better promotion of benefit take-up
- Providing additional support through services such as Future Prospects to help improve employment prospects
- Better support to schools and families from disadvantaged backgrounds such as providing funding for extra-curricular activities to raise aspirations.

Council calls for an Action Plan officer report on the geographic areas suffering with the highest levels of child poverty in the City, with suggested measures, such as those already detailed, with a view to

Council taking its own responsibilities in equal measure to the Government.”²

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as amended, be approved.

(ii) Local Authority Business Growth Incentive

It was moved by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Potter that:

“Council notes and welcomes the £690,000 Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) reward money.

Council also notes that £200,000 has been allocated to assist in the establishment of a community stadium in York.

Council instructs that the reward money be spent in the following ways:-

- £30,000 grant to York Racial Equality Network (YREN)
- £53,000 to re-instate travel tokens entitlements to the 07/08 level
- £54,000 to the Graffiti Tackling Team initiative to replace the cuts in the Neighbourhood Services portfolio budget
- £10,000 to Safer York Partnership (SYP) towards the establishment of a graffiti database, to replace the cuts to York Pride money allocated to it
- £50,000 to fund a fireworks display
- £40,000 to fund better Christmas lights
- £30,000 to bring forward the recycling pilot to start pilot to terraced and difficult to access areas in August 2008
- £50,000 to fund pilot of ‘Smart Choices’ initiative for personalised travel planning
- £20,000 to re-instate Audit and Fraud post
- £50,000 for additional contact hours for Home Care – in relation to city-wide enabling and intermediate care team – High Dependency and EMI services
- £40,000 to reduce residents’ parking permit fees by 10%
- £27,000 for free evening parking for residents from 5:30 pm, with effect from 1st July 2009
- £7,500 to establish free parking for Green Minster Badge holders – for cars owned by residents which are considered ‘environmentally friendly’
- £15,000 additional grant to York Credit
- £7,500 grant to the Older People’s Assembly
- £6,000 grant to Older People’s Advocacy York.”

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Richard Watson seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“Delete all after ‘*Council instructs*’ in the third paragraph and insert: *‘that the remaining allocation of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive be placed in reserves.’*”

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

A further amendment, put forward by Cllr D'Agorne, accordingly fell as it was not compatible with the first amendment.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“Council notes and welcomes the £690,000 Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) reward money.
Council also notes that £200,000 has been allocated to assist in the establishment of a community stadium in York.
Council instructs that the remaining allocation of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive be placed in reserves.”³

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as amended, be approved.

(iii) Local Rail Services

It was moved by Cllr Gillies and seconded by Cllr Wiseman that:

“This Council instructs Officers to investigate, and report back through City Strategy EMAP, with the appropriate agencies the feasibility of developing a dedicated rail service to run between York Railway Station and Strensall, with intermediate stops at York District Hospital and Haxby, utilising the existing railway infrastructure.
The Council also registers its support for future light railway / tram train systems for the City of York.”

Cllr Steve Galloway then moved, and Cllr Hyman seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“Delete all after ‘to’ in the first sentence and insert: ‘update and report back, in conjunction with other appropriate agencies, via the City Strategy EMAP, on the progress made in implementing the LTP proposal to provide a rail service running between York Railway Station and Strensall, with intermediate stops at York District Hospital and Haxby, and which would utilise as far as possible existing railway infrastructure.’
Delete all after ‘support’ in the second paragraph and insert: ‘in principle for the future use of light railway / tram train type systems in the City of York area, subject to the successful conclusion of the technical trial which is being conducted in South Yorkshire, the availability of the necessary funding and confirmation that such a system would complement the City’s long term sustainable transport strategy.’”

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

"This Council instructs officers to update and report back, in conjunction with other appropriate agencies, via the City Strategy EMAP, on the progress made in implementing the LDF proposal to provide a rail service running between York Railway Station and Strensall, with intermediate stops at York District Hospital and Haxby, and which would utilise as far as possible existing railway infrastructure. ⁴

The Council also registers its support in principle for the future use of light railway/tram train type systems in the City of York area, subject to the successful conclusion of the technical trial which is being conducted in south Yorkshire, the availability of the necessary funding and confirmation that such a system would complement the City's long term sustainable transport strategy "

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as amended, be approved.

(iv) The Supply of Rented Housing

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

"City of York Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Housing Minister in support of the cross party report of The Communities and Local Government Select Committee – 'The Supply of Rented Housing'. Council requests that he ensures that York's need for affordable housing, as identified in the independent Fordham's Report, is highlighted in relation to the Committee's recommendations to ensure that the City of York and its residents receive a fair share of any financial allocation resulting from the report.

The Chief Executive is asked to draw particular attention to the following matters in writing to the Housing Minister, in order to:

- Receive a fair quota for York of the Committee's call to build an extra 50,000 properties, nationally, for the social rented sector each year to meet the country's housing shortage.
- Allow councils, including City of York, to build their own homes as a means to providing much needed affordable homes for York residents.
- Increase the supply and quality of rented housing and that homes for rent should no longer be seen as 'second best' to owner occupation.
- Build more affordable family homes, to reduce overcrowding and waiting lists as a result of building too many flats.
- Call for restrictions to be imposed on right-to-buy sales where necessary and that money received remains within the authority of purchase.
- Support the call for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to investigate fiscal measures that would provide an incentive to property owners not to leave their properties

empty for long periods – and support local authorities in their efforts to prevent and reduce the incidence of ‘buy-to-leave’ through investigating how there can be better use of existing powers, including Empty Dwelling Management Orders, to bring empty dwellings into use and by ensuring that the information necessary to take action, on ownership for example, is readily available.”

Cllr Hudson then moved, and Cllr Watt seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“In the second paragraph:-

- at the start of the second bullet point, add the words ‘*call on the Government to return the Housing Revenue Grant to*’.
- delete the fifth bullet point and substitute ‘*call for revenue from right-to-buy sales to remain within the authority of purchase*’.”

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“City of York Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Housing Minister in support of the cross party report of The Communities and Local Government Select Committee – ‘The Supply of Rented Housing’. Council requests that he ensures that York’s need for affordable housing, as identified in the independent Fordham’s Report, is highlighted in relation to the Committee’s recommendations to ensure that the City of York and its residents receive a fair share of any financial allocation resulting from the report.⁵

The Chief Executive is asked to draw particular attention to the following matters in writing to the Housing Minister, in order to:

- Receive a fair quota for York of the Committee’s call to build an extra 50,000 properties, nationally, for the social rented sector each year to meet the country’s housing shortage.
- Call on the Government to return the Housing Revenue Grant to allow councils, including City of York, to build their own homes as a means to providing much needed affordable homes for York residents.
- Increase the supply and quality of rented housing and that homes for rent should no longer be seen as ‘second best’ to owner occupation.
- Build more affordable family homes, to reduce overcrowding and waiting lists as a result of building too many flats.
- Call for revenue from right-to-buy sales to remain within the authority of purchase.
- Support the call for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to investigate fiscal measures that would provide an incentive to property owners not to leave their properties empty for long periods – and support local authorities in their efforts to prevent and reduce the incidence of ‘buy-to-leave’ through investigating how there can be better use of existing powers, including Empty Dwelling Management Orders, to bring empty

dwelling into use and by ensuring that the information necessary to take action, on ownership for example, is readily available.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as amended, be approved.

(v) National ID Cards Scheme

It was moved by Cllr Kirk and seconded by Cllr Holvey that:

“Council notes that:

- 1) From 2011/12 everyone over the age of 16 applying for a passport will have their details – including fingerprints and facial scans – added to a National Identity register. The Government also plans to make it compulsory for all UK citizens over the age of 16 to have ID cards, despite the fact that all legal UK citizen have NHS and NI numbers so this is wasteful duplication.
- 2) Successive cases of data loss by the Government, most notably the loss of computer discs containing the personal details of 25 million people, has made the public increasingly concerned about the ID cards scheme.
- 3) Such a scheme will cost every York taxpayer at least £200, and all York residents £90 to obtain one of the ID cards. The introduction of compulsory identity cards will unfairly penalise residents on lower incomes in York, who are finding it difficult to cope with rising costs of food and fuel.
- 4) Identity cards will obstruct our civil liberties, allow personal data to be shared without our consent, encourage fraud, will not prevent illegal working and will not help to fight crime and terrorism.
- 5) The scheme could cost up to £18bn, which would be better spent on other security measures, such as more police and intelligence officers.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary asking that the Government rejects its expensive plans for ineffective ID cards, most particularly making them compulsory at the expense of local residents.”⁶

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Write to Secretary of State, Opposition Spokespersons and MPs. | DB |
| 2. Produce Officer report addressing these issues. | ST |
| 3. Add this sum to the Council's reserves and make any necessary adjustments to the budget record. | SA |
| 4. Include item on Forward Plan for City Strategy EMAP and produce the report within appropriate deadlines. | JB |

5. Write to the Housing Minister in the terms described. DB
6. Write to the Home Secretary in the terms described. DB

19. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the recommendation contained in Minute 7 of the Executive meeting on 3 June 2008, relating to the Sustainable Community Strategy. On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the recommendation in Minute 7 of the Executive meeting on 3 June 2008 be accepted and that the Sustainable Community Strategy be approved.

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded:

“That the recommendation under Minute 16 of the Executive meeting on 17 June 2008 be approved and that Balfour Street Play Area be removed from the capital receipts programme and the capital programme be reduced by the size of the budgeted receipt (£350k) as a consequence (as set out in Option A in paragraph 8 of the Officer report circulated to Members on 27 June 2008.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above motion, incorporating the recommendation from the Executive meeting on 17 June 2008, be approved.

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the recommendation contained in Minute 27 of the Executive meeting on 30 June 2008, relating to the Statement of Accounts.

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendation in Minute 27 of the Executive meeting on 30 June 2008 be accepted and that the Statement of Accounts be approved.

At the invitation of the Lord Mayor, Cllr Pierce then moved as urgent business, and Cllr Scott seconded, the recommendation made by the Audit and Governance Committee at their meeting on 26 June 2008 regarding the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“Delete paragraph a) of the recommendation in Minute 8 of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 26 June 2008.”

In accordance with Standing Order 14(f), a named vote of those Members present was requested and put on the above amendment, as follows:

For	Against	Abstained
Cllr Aspden	Cllr Alexander	
Cllr Ayre	Cllr Blanchard	
Cllr Firth	Cllr Bowgett	
Cllr Steve Galloway	Cllr Cregan	
Cllr Sue Galloway	Cllr D’Agorne	
Cllr Hogg	Cllr Douglas	
Cllr Holvey	Cllr Fraser	
Cllr Hyman	Cllr Funnell	
Cllr Jamieson-Ball	Cllr Galvin	
Cllr Kirk	Cllr Gillies	
Cllr Moore	Cllr Gunnell	
Cllr Morley	Cllr Healey	
Cllr Orrell	Cllr Horton	
Cllr Reid	Cllr Hudson	
Cllr Runciman	Cllr King	
Cllr Sunderland	Cllr Looker	
Cllr Vassi	Cllr Merrett	
Cllr Waller	Cllr Pierce	
Cllr R Watson	Cllr Potter	
Cllr Waudby	Cllr Scott	
	Cllr Simpson-Laing	
	Cllr Taylor	
	Cllr B Watson (Lord Mayor)	
	Cllr Watt	
	Cllr Wiseman	
20	25	0

In accordance with the named vote, the amendment was declared LOST.

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

RESOLVED: That recommendation in Minute 8 of the Audit and Governance Committee meeting on 26 June 2008 be accepted and that the 2007/08 Annual Governance Statement be approved subject to the amendments set out in that recommendation.

[At this point in the meeting, the guillotine fell]

20. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

A written report was received from Cllr Sue Galloway, the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services.

Notice had been received of nine questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders.

The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written responses to these questions. The questions and the written responses are set out below.

(i) From Councillor Morley

“Would the Executive Member say what factors have led to the improvement in letting times for empty Council homes?”

Reply

“There has been a significant improvement in the void turn around times for empty homes. In 2006/07 the void period averaged 3.55 weeks and in 2007/08 this was 2.77 weeks. This is well below the 3 week target and is at its lowest level this century. One of the main factors has been the “Golden Goodbye” incentive scheme encouraging people to leave their homes in relettable condition. On average there is a 1 week difference between those homes relet following the award and those that did not qualify.”

(ii) From Councillor Ayre

“Would the Executive Member outline progress on the choice based lettings scheme?”

Reply

“There have been 124 choice based lettings on hard to let properties since the scheme started. I am pleased to say that York and North Yorkshire sub region have successfully bid to CLG for funding to consider the implementation of sub regional choice based lettings.”

(iii) From Cllr Orrell

“Would the Executive Member outline in more detail some of the findings of the survey on the Long Term Commissioning Strategy for Services for Older People?”

Reply

This survey of older people attracted a very good response rate and in addition to a postal survey, we conducted stakeholder events and four focus groups.

There was support for the provision of low level preventative services to enable people to remain healthy and in control. One of the key messages was the provision of a handyperson service and I am pleased to be able to tell you that, with the help of the Supporting People programme, this is one of the first areas to be addressed. More information on this service will be available shortly.

In addition we are working with the PCT on a menu of preventative services, including community based befriending and support services. There was also strong support for specialist residential care to be increased – especially for those suffering from dementia.

Whilst most people wanted to remain in their own homes, there was a feeling that smaller and more manageable homes should be built. Some homeowners expressed a wish to downsize but said that the cost of a smaller home was often more than their current home was worth and that there was no incentive to move. Hence I think it is now necessary for us to start looking at how we might assist those homeowners – both council and owner occupiers – who wish to downsize to release family accommodation.

Although Telecare had been slow to take off in York, it was interesting that over 50% of respondents wanted the Council to make more use of this. The £225k that is in the budget will therefore enable us to meet those demands and I am pleased to say that over 250 vulnerable residents have already benefited from having bogus caller alarms fitted.”

(iv) From Cllr Aspden

“Would the Executive Member give more detail on the Golden Triangle partnership scheme?”

Reply

“The one which is probably the most important at the moment is the proposed scheme to prevent homelessness and support home ownership and sustainability. The proposed scheme will provide an equity loan to eligible households who are unable to meet their mortgage payments.

There are three options under consideration.

One is to pay off a household's arrears and the loan would be added as a charge on the property to be paid back on sale of the property. There would also be the option to pay back the loan earlier if the family circumstances changed whilst still in the property.

The second option is to pay off the household's arrears and provide an equity loan. The advantage here would be that the loan would be used to bring back the household's mortgage payments to a level which they can meet. Again there would be a charge on the property which would be paid on sale.

The third option is to pay off a household's arrears to enable a sale to go ahead – again the loan would be repaid on sale of the property.”

(v) From Cllr Simpson-Laing

“Will the Executive Member, when discussing issues regarding the PCT, the Hospital Trust and those who work for and within all areas of the Health Services, ensure that she recognises the work done not just today but over the last 60 years since the setting up of the NHS?”

Reply

“Indeed, and before that the vision of Lloyd George when he introduced the National Insurance Act in 1911.

However, I have to say that when I met David Nicholson, the Chief Executive of the NHS on his recent visit to York, we did not dwell on the history of the NHS but rather had a constructive dialogue about the future shape of services.”

(vi) From Cllr Simpson-Laing

“In relation to 'Tenancy Services' and the issue of enforcement, can the Ex Member for Housing and Adult Social Services explain what she views as an acceptable period of time for action to be taken to clear gardens when they have been reported as having excessive build ups of food waste refuse bags and items that could be a fire danger?”

Reply

“I assume that it is “refuse bags” to which the councillor refers. If there is a proven health hazard at a Council tenancy then I would expect that housing officers – working with other agencies such as Environmental Protection and North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue – would take action to rectify the problem.”

(vii) From Cllr Bowgett

“Can the Executive Member with regard to Homelessness inform Council on a proposed occupation date for the new Peasholme Centre?”

Reply

“Spring 2009 as indicated at the HASS EMAP held on 2 June 2008.”

(viii) From Cllr Horton

“With regard to 'Strategy and Enabling' will the Executive Member ensure Council that she will send a submission to the 'Local Development Framework Working Group' confirming her support for the Council's Affordable Housing Policy as a means to provide much needed homes for those on the Councils Housing Waiting List?”

Reply

“Like most Members of Council I supported the affordable housing policy when it was placed before Council. It is for the working group to consider all representations made. I would be interested in seeing refinements to the affordable housing policy if it could be demonstrated that additional housing units could be made available for those in need over and above what is being achieved under present arrangements.”

(ix) From Cllr Horton

“With regard to boiler replacements, can the Executive Member give details on the energy efficiency ratings of the Council's housing stock gas boilers, explain why such a large number were replaced reactively and the relative unit costs of this compared to planned replacements?”

Reply

“Three questions in one!

I would refer the member to the answer given to his colleague Cllr Merrett on the same topic at the Council meeting on 29 November 2007."

21. QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 10(C)

Thirteen questions had been submitted to the Executive Leader and Executive Members under Standing Order 10(c)(i).

The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written answers to these questions. The questions and the written responses are set out below.

- (i) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Alexander:
"Will the Executive Leader give a date for changes to the Council's Constitution that will allow 'champions' to report to, and progress issues through, Council?"

Reply:

"Arrangements are being made for Champions to be able to prepare a written briefing on their role and work. The briefing note will be submitted to Democratic Services, who will ensure the note gets circulated to all Members for information at the same time as agenda for Council meetings get published. In this way, all Members will be kept up to date and informed about the progress and work of Champions on a regular basis. Members can then decide whether they wish to seek clarification on the briefing note from the relevant Champion or indeed whether they wish to put forward a motion for future Council or Executive meetings based on the information contained in it. I am advised this practice will not require any constitutional change."

- (ii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:
"Can the Executive Member for City Strategy explain what work has been undertaken on the following motion passed at Council in November 2007?"

Reply:

"Council agrees that bus cross-ticketing, within the City of York Council boundary, is adopted as a primary objective of Council's desire to further develop public transport usage in the city. Council calls for council officers to negotiate with local bus operators to achieve this with a target implementation date being set as being no later than January 2009.

Consultants Halcrow have been appointed to investigate options for, and the potential costs of, introducing bus through ticketing. They are expected to complete their report in July. The expectation is that an officer report, reviewing feasibility and costs, will be presented to the Executive in September."

- (iii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Merrett:
“Would the Executive Member for City Strategy explain what progress has been made on updating the Council’s bio-diversity action plan to meet current standards and to feed in to the draft Local Plan?”

Reply:

“Work on a re-appraisal of the 1996 biodiversity audit is being undertaken as is an outline of a new Biodiversity Action Plan. These will be fed into the LDF process prior to the core strategy being submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2009.”

- (iv) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:
“Can the Executive Member for City Strategy urgently investigate ways of incentivising local residents to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and so contribute locally to preventing global warming and climate change, bringing a report back to Full Council for discussion in September?”

Reply:

“The City’s response to the causes of climate change has been agreed by the LSP and was endorsed by Executive last year. A further report detailing how the Council could respond to the challenge was also endorsed by the Executive recently. Both reports are available on the Council’s web site.

The strategies both require changes to behaviors. Examples of incentives for change, which are currently available, include discounted parking fees for the users of low emission cars and the cycle allowances which are available to employees.

The policy reports to be considered during the present year have been discussed by Group Leaders and a prioritised list, which reflects the amount of officer time available, has been endorsed by the Executive. I understand that the list includes a report back on the progress being made in implementing our climate change strategy.”

- (v) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Gunnell:
“Can the Executive Member for Corporate Services give Council Members the year on year running costs of the Barbican auditorium to the Council since its closure, including Business Rates, Utilities and Security costs?”

Reply:

“Since Absolute Leisure were granted a short term lease for the Auditorium in October 2005 they have been responsible for running and repair costs. Under that agreement the Council continued to pay business rates for the Auditorium, which in 2007/08 were £85k.”

- (vi) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing
“Can the Executive Member for Corporate Services give an update on the identification of ownership of land on Runswick Avenue, which Officers have been trying to identify since June 2007?”

Reply:

"It remains unclear who owns this land, though I can confirm that it is not in the Council's property portfolio."

- (vii) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Ayre:

"Would the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion report on the visitor figures for the revamped Acomb library and outline forthcoming changes to the library service elsewhere in the City?"

Reply:

"In April 2008 Acomb library received 10064 visitors as opposed to 4002 for April 2007. This is a phenomenal result and shows just what can be achieved with a little imagination and flair in the revamping of a library. We are aiming to export the new Explore model that is proving so successful in Acomb to other parts of the city. A new library opens officially in New Earswick tomorrow. I visited it last Thursday and was impressed at the thought and attention the project has received. In particular, by hosting the library on the school site, there are now new opportunities for adult learning for parents who can drop their children off at school and then step into the library. There are also plans to further revamp the central library. While the building is a magnificent example in terms of architecture we have work to do to transform the dark feel of much of the building into something more welcoming to visitors in the 21st century.

Across the city, comparing the figures for April 07 with those for April 08, York has seen a 21.6% increase in library visitors. This is very encouraging because it shows that we are getting to grips with the important task of keeping libraries relevant in the age of internet access. I believe libraries have a bright future so long as we apply ourselves to creating a five year plan that enables them to evolve and reflect the changing needs of residents rather than simply keeping them the way they are and watching them wither, as they are in many other parts of the country."

- (viii) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Moore:

"Would the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion comment on the Council's new position on encouraging film crews to visit the City?"

Reply:

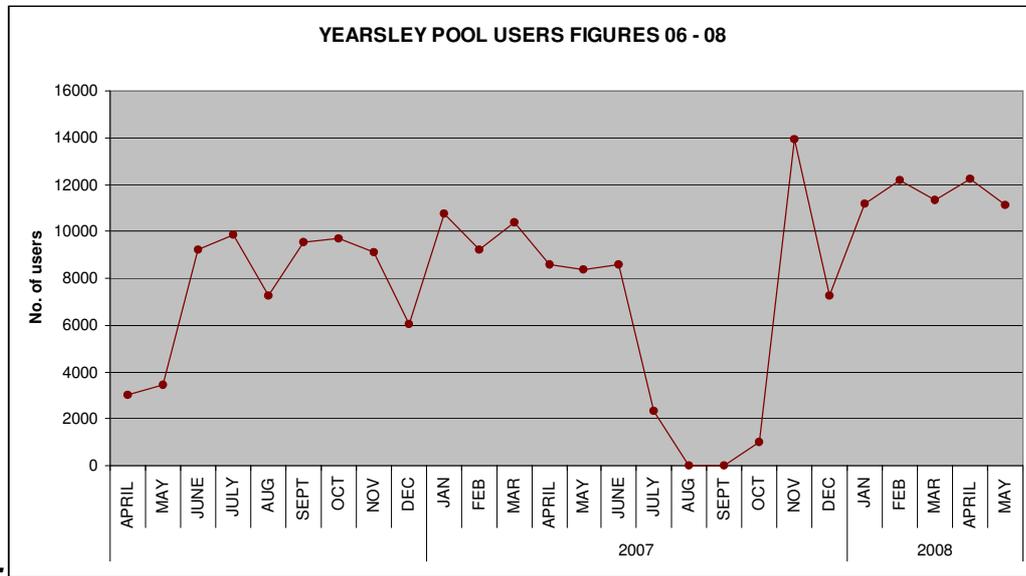
"At the beginning of this year officers and I attended a meeting with Screen Yorkshire to indicate our interest in signing up to the Film Friendly Partnership that encourages film makers to come to Yorkshire to make use of our fantastic locations. While it is fair to say that York is often the host for film makers, particularly local television and student productions, we are now seeing a new interest from major film producers. This is wholly to be welcomed as it raises the city's profile nationally and internationally and, if the films are successful, has a long term impact of increasing the number of visitors.

Recently I have been working with officers to ensure that when such film makers visit the city, particularly those engaged in period dramas, we have a contract that guarantees CYC having copies of still photographs of dressed sets, such as the recent dressing of the Shambles when the Robinson Crusoe production was in town. The kinds of images that result from these productions will enable the city to maximise the publicity it derives from welcoming these productions to the city and, hopefully, encourage still more productions to see York as a fantastic location to film.”

(ix) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Moore:

“Would the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion provide visitor figures and energy performance figures for Yearsley pool since it re-opened?”

Reply:



As of now energy costs are down by over 60%. We will produce a fuller evaluation when we have full year figures.

Energy 1 Nov - 31 March (YSP)			
2007/08		2006/07	
Steam	Elec	Steam	Elec
£ 9,098.71		£34,405.59	
£ 5,518.45		£25,211.27	
£14,617.15	£8,500.00	£59,616.86	£5,300.00
TOTAL	£23,117.15	£64,916.86	

(x) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Looker:

“Can the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion confirm that the swimming pool at Heslington East campus is a crucial part of the Liberal Democrat swimming strategy, and if so give Council a date when work is expected to commence on site, along with a clear timetable so Council knows the expected date of opening and the pool’s location?”

Reply:

“As the minutes of the Executive meeting of 27th October 2007 confirm, the council is committed to working in partnership with the university to deliver a pool on the Heslington East site by 2011.

Council has recently received confirmation from the university that it is in the process of finalising the swimming pool report and recommendations and that this report will be considered in July, as the university has always said it would be.

It is understood that the university’s meeting in July will confirm more precisely the location of the proposed swimming pool on the Heslington East site and give an indication as to when work will commence, and other relevant timescales, in order to deliver a completed pool by 2011, the date agreed between the parties.”

- (xi) To the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

“Can the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services describe her plans and campaigns, through partnership working with the Executive Member for Corporate Services, for the financial year 2008/09, to ensure that York’s retired residents who are entitled to Pension Credit and Council Tax benefit are claiming the benefits they are entitled to?”

Reply:

“In 2007/08 £991,000 in extra benefits was gained for customers through the work of the Finance Team in Social Services. This work is carried out in conjunction with the Benefits Section of the Council. The Council works closely with the DWP, voluntary organizations, etc. This work will continue throughout the current year.

In addition I am looking at developing a pilot scheme with GPs to improve the take up of benefits for their patients.”

- (xii) To the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

“Can the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services explain her plans to programme and install either double or secondary glazing in remaining single glazed Council properties as a means to improve the SAP ratings and eco-footprints of the Council’s stock, as well as to reduce the fuel bills of tenants?”

Reply:

“There is a window replacement scheme in this year’s capital programme which will see work carried out at 84 homes. These

*windows are beyond their economic lifespans and the Council cannot justify the high repair and painting costs
98.5% of our current stock have either double glazing or high performance single glazed windows.*

As a means of increasing a homes SAP rating the provision of double glazing is much less effective than improving loft insulation and introducing condensing boilers – which is where our limited resources are currently focused.”

- (xiii) To the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services, from Cllr Alexander:

“Can the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services report to Council the number of private sector landlords who have signed up to the ‘Voluntary Code of Conduct’ with regard to ‘To Let’ sign advertising that a property is a student property, and what percentage is that of all private sector landlords?”

Reply:

“This scheme is managed by the Universities of York and York St John who advise that 844 landlords have signed up to the code. It is estimated that there are between 1200-1500 landlords who let to students. A precise percentage cannot be provided as there is no statutory requirement to register as a landlord.”

22. SCRUTINY - REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A written report was received from Cllr Galvin, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC), on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council, on 10 April 2008.

23. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

a) Minutes of Outside Bodies

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

- York and North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership – meeting on 7/2/08
- North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority – meetings on 13/2/08 and 25/2/08
- Safer York Partnership – meeting on 10/4/08
- Pension Fund Sub-Committee – meeting on 15/5/08
- North Yorkshire Police Authority – meetings on 4/2/08 and 25/2/08

No questions had been submitted to representatives on the above bodies.

b) Review of List of Minutes of Outside Bodies Reported to Council

RESOLVED: That the revised list of Outside Bodies whose minutes are reported to Council, circulated with the Council papers (and attached as Annex 1 to these minutes) be approved.¹

Action Required

1. Include revised list in Constitution and ensure minutes are reported to Council. KS

24. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED: That the appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and Working Groups set out in the revised list circulated at the Council meeting (and attached as Annex 1 to these minutes) be approved.¹

Action Required

1. Make the necessary changes to membership on the committee management system. KS

Cllr Brian Watson

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

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

1 Leaders Report to Full Council on 25th September.

2

3 Since my last report there have been four meetings of the Executive.

4 The Executive has agreed a single improvement plan following on from the CPA
5 review which will build upon the sound progress in community leadership and the
6 good service delivery of the council identified in the inspection. Particular emphasis
7 has been made by the Executive to progress those objectives which make an impact
8 on the lives of residents in the city. There will also be improved arrangements for
9 budget monitoring, and a rethink of member training which will ensure a more
10 strategic application of funding and planning of councillor skills development.

11 I am pleased that a conclusion has been reached in terms of extending the
12 racecourse lease as this will assist with the considerable long term investment there
13 which is important to the York economy. The importance of this was unfortunately
14 underlined by the consequence of the weather wiping out the Ebor meet. Issues
15 relating to tackling anti-social behaviour were taken up by senior members, officers
16 and Police Staff which was the relevant forum for the response to situations outside
17 of the grounds of the Racecourse. Since Ascot came to York in 2005, and a new
18 traffic management plan was implemented, there have been considerably fewer
19 complaints about traffic on race days.

20 Performance figures for the financial year 2007/08 showed a continued improvement
21 in delivery of services. Of particular note was the further improvement in street
22 cleanliness with streets of defined acceptable tidiness increasing from 81.8% to
23 86.5%, and a significant success in waste minimisation seeing a reduction in the
24 amount of waste (waste to landfill and recycling added together) from 538kg per
25 person in 2006/07 to 512.25kg per person. This has helped to push the city's
26 recycling figure to 43.37%. The introduction of a new system for assessments of
27 residents over the age of 65 has reduced by 9% the proportion of those waiting for an
28 assessment. We are now in a position that 70% of Housing and Adult Social Services
29 are in the top 2 quartiles, compare to 23% last year. In City Strategy the performance
30 indicators in this category have improved or remained stable. There has been a small
31 reduction in number using the bus service, although York continues to perform well
32 relative to other cities outside of London. Planning performance (time taken to deal
33 with applications) has generally been above target and around City Strategy
34 Performance is markedly above levels in 2003.

35 The city's children continue to perform well in York's schools which is essential for
36 the continued economic success of the city, and their own access to jobs in the
37 modern economy. Exclusions have been reduced, and all eight Children's Centres
38 are open, or on track to be so in the near future. Officers are to be thanked for the
39 recent outstanding JAR (Joint Area Review) report with 90% of indicators being
40 above the unitary average

41 Generally it was also a good year for the resources directorate with significant
42 improvement in benefits section- setting a record for the processing time for new
43 claims and changes in circumstances. Other significant improvements have been
44 seen in the York Customer Centre where calls are now being answered promptly and
45 only a handful of calls are being abandoned. Customer Satisfaction sits at 99%
46 according to independent research.

47

48 There has been some misrepresentation of the council's outturn figures, and whilst
49 the accounts were signed off at Full Council on 30th June, it is worth pointing out that
50 of the £6.7 million surplus, nearly half had been accounted for by carry forward and a
51 reduction in the 2008/9 council tax. Of the remainder, the improvement was due
52 largely to one-off grants or "wins" on the money markets due to interest rates which
53 can easily work against the council in future years. Indeed the council was fortunate
54 that major loans were taken out before the "credit crunch". It would be unsustainable
55 to use these "one off" benefits for revenue expenditure

56 The council's finances are in a strong position thanks to careful budgeting, and
57 strenuous attempts by officers and Executive Members to ensure that spending was
58 brought back into line by the year end within the set budgets. There is a need to
59 improve the monitoring of expenditure and income through the year and the Third
60 Quarter monitoring report has been restored.

61 The 2007/08 Capital Programme was one of the most ambitious ever undertaken by
62 the Council. It has delivered several significant improvements for the city over the last
63 year.

- 64 1- Refurbishment of Yearsley Pool with an upsurge in swimming at the pool
- 65 2- Improvements to Acomb Library with visitor numbers increasing
- 66 3- Schools modernisation works totalling £1.36 million
- 67 4- Completion of the Skills Centre at Danesgate
- 68 5- £2.7 million invested in 5 children's centres across the city
- 69 6- £2.0 million investment in IT equipment in schools
- 70 7- Design work started on the new Joseph Rowntree School
- 71 8- £2.4 million of the £10 million works on York High School
- 72 9- £6.3 million invested in roads and transport- including the highly successful
73 Moor Lane roundabout
- 74 10- £11 million works to York's Housing stock.

75

76 In July the Executive responded to the consultation on the Sub National Review
77 which has been undertaken by central government. Clearly this is of significant
78 interest to York when the Regional Assembly is abolished, and more powers are
79 transferred to the Regional Development Agencies. Whilst there are currently good
80 links between local government in the region and Yorkshire Forward, there is the
81 potential for a democratic deficit in decision making, and the apportionment of
82 budgets by an unelected quango.

83

84 Nevertheless, York has a key role to play in the Leeds City Region which has
85 become the new sub-regional division. The Leaders Board has already played its
86 part in challenging government policy on eco-towns and the promotion of a solution
87 which would see more investment in brownfield sites in the sub-region.

88

89 The Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) for Leeds City Region deals with training and skills,
90 and transport, both of which are key drivers towards a successful economy and high
91 employment levels in York. However, the fact that it is a top-down approach, rather

92 than the combination of Local Area Agreements in the sub-region does indicate that
93 there is need to have better working. The transport section of the MAA represents a
94 reasonable analysis of the issues that the sub region faces. Until recently York fared
95 poorly in the allocation of capital funds but now we have secured major funding for
96 Park and Ride and cycling. The MAA may allow us to gain a higher level of
97 investment.

98

99 The "Thriving City" programme was developed as part of the inclusive "One City"
100 agenda that I have been pursuing as leader to address the issue of economic
101 success and social inclusion. Many other cities are now working on council led "credit
102 crunch" work, and so I have been pleased at how much further ahead York has been
103 in developing this agenda. The report in July was a "call to arms" across the city, and
104 I was pleased at the number of responses that the council has received, and officers
105 have been very busy over the summer, as have I, in meeting local businesses to
106 investigate what can be done in particular to support small locally owned businesses
107 who feel particularly vulnerable from the downturn in the national economy. Clearly
108 there were very strong steers from the Future York report, with progress having been
109 made on a number of the key recommendations of that report, with the Business
110 Forum due to commence in October, and a chair of the Economic Development
111 Partnership having been found in Peter Kay.

112 There will be a report back to the Executive in October when there can be a strategic
113 review of investing the returned business rate (LAGBI) money in a way which will
114 deliver sustained support to the York economy and help support jobs, and
115 employment creation.

116

117 The Executive is fully committed to tackling inequalities within the city, and the report
118 on the Kingsway West Project marks progress with the work that has been piloted in
119 the area (although for completeness the Super Output Area boundaries cover parts
120 of the Foxwood Lane and Gale Lane areas).

121 Good links have been made with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and an
122 appointment has been made for a community worker, working out of the Citizens
123 Advice Bureau. The co-ordination of multi-agency work in the ward through the Joint
124 Action Group (now "Capable Guardian") and links with the KARA, Kingsway Area
125 Residents Association has assisted the development of planned activity in the pilot
126 area. There will be considerable work on the take up of benefits, and the Credit
127 Union, and Energy Efficiency Advice Centre have offered to assist with the follow up
128 of assistance to individuals. A launch event on 11th September began the dialogue
129 with the community of the aims and objectives of the pilot to ensure that residents are
130 engaged with the process which will involve a high degree of doorstep work.

131

132 Another major worry for the city resulting from the national "credit crunch" has been
133 the increased potential for homelessness due to mortgage repossessions adding to
134 the existing housing problems. Clearly it is grossly unfair that York families should
135 suffer from the weaknesses in the regulation of mortgage lenders, but the Council
136 needs to respond to the issue, and the Executive adopted the Homeless Strategy for
137 2008/13 which has been drawn up by Housing and Adult Social Services EMAP in
138 June.

139 The York City Football Club has been through a difficult time since 2003, and the city
140 has been fortunate that many supporters have worked hard to retain professional
141 football in the city. The Supporters Trust enabled a short term solution to the

142 ownership issues of Bootham Crescent to ensure that they had a home ground in
143 order to continue running. In July and September the Executive received reports on
144 plans to help to ensure that the Football Club survived the period between now and
145 the completion of a community stadium.

146 Initial designs have been assessed against the benchmark of the Princes Park
147 "green" stadium in Dartford. A scaled up version of this basic design has been
148 dialogued with the football and rugby clubs over the last 2 years.

149 For the council to stand aside and allow the Football Club to fail would result the loss
150 of £2 million contribution to the new community stadium from the Football
151 Foundation, and the loss of a revenue stream from a paying tenant of the new
152 stadium. Therefore it would substantially assist the business case for the Football
153 Club to continue in operation.

154 A number of options were explored over the summer. From the work that has been
155 done, and with close co-operation of the Football Club it was agreed that the Football
156 Foundation be approached to roll up the interest payments in the value of the ground.
157 In return the council would kick start the project for the development of the
158 community stadium with the appointment of a project manager. This post will have
159 the responsibility to develop the business case for the community stadium, identify
160 funding, and consult with the York City Football Club, York City Knights, existing
161 sports users at Huntington Stadium, and with the wider community for the
162 development and delivery of the new stadium. This will involve covering issues of site
163 location.

164

165 The Access York Phase 1 Park and Ride development programme and consultation
166 plan was approved by the Executive at the end of July. This is essential in order to
167 access the funding which should be available for the delivery of a new Askham Bar
168 Park and Ride, with two entirely new sites at the A59 and Wigginton Road. The
169 investment amounts to £21 million from the Regional Transport Board towards the
170 total cost of £24 million which will make a major contribution towards reducing traffic
171 congestion and emission levels in the urban area. Currently there are 4 million P&R
172 journeys made each year, and this programme will help to intercept more cars from
173 entering the city centre. Anticipated development, such as York Central , makes
174 improvements like this essential, and it is a tribute to the speed of response to the
175 opportunity that officers and senior councillors were able to make a successful bid
176 for the resources. New features include "park and cycle", and at least two would
177 offer the long term possibility of "park and rail". In order to secure the offered
178 funding there is some urgency in concluding the submission of the business case
179 for these schemes.

180 The Executive received the Tang Hall Area Asset Management Plan Ad-hoc
181 Scrutiny Committee Final Report, and the Tang Hall Area Asset Management Plan.

182 The basic argument for the new headquarters still remain, with considerable
183 savings to the council tax payers resulting from the convergence of offices to a
184 central Headquarters. In parallel there is the need to deliver a customer centre
185 equipped for 21st century expectations, improved working conditions, and buildings
186 which are environmentally friendly. These are matters have not gone away. The
187 Executive set out a decision making framework which is robust, objective, and
188 measured in pace so that decisions are not rushed, but at the same time built on an

189 appreciation that delays eat into the financial advantages delivered by the
190 headquarters project. This is after all a project which has previously received in
191 principle all-party support, and is being done for the benefit of the residents of York
192 for a fit-for-purpose building.

193 In order to demonstrate that the council is ensuring that the correct option is being
194 progressed for value for the council tax payer, and achievement of the key
195 objectives of the scheme, a review has been made of all the original sites, and any
196 others that have come forward since the previous assessment.

197 The Executive does believe that the headquarters should be based in the city
198 centre, to contribute to the regeneration of the city centre, and to support city centre
199 businesses. However in the interests of demonstrating objectivity an appraisal of
200 city centre versus 'out of town' will take place, in order to test the previous work that
201 was done to come forward with a city centre location.

202 The report received in September will ensure the rapid assessment of a refined
203 number of options. Officers are keenly aware that the preferred options need to
204 come within the existing budget. The appointment of a consultant is to ensure that
205 the Director of City Strategy, who has taken on specific responsibility for leading the
206 project, has capacity to deliver what is expected of this part of the process.

207 A meeting took place with Maddy Jago of English Heritage (Regional Director)
208 involving the Chief Executive and myself on 19th August. Since then I have
209 received a letter from Maddy Jago in response to mine which sets out a way
210 forward for progressing closer working between English Heritage and the council
211 which is vital for future developments in the city.

212 Also in the interests of improved communication with key consultees I have
213 supported the creation of a 'Design Consultation Group'. Whilst this will not have a
214 'design by committee' remit, it will nevertheless assist with an improved dialogue
215 within the city.

216 The Executive have considered a report on the issue of cross bus company
217 ticketing which has been an issue for over 20 years, and was a by-product of the
218 deregulation legislation introduced by central government.

219 The officer report revealed that in York, where most services are provided by First,
220 only 5% of bus journeys involve passengers changing from one operator to another.
221 Unfortunately the introduction of a system that would allow for a single fare to be
222 paid for these split journeys would cost over a third of a million pounds to introduce
223 plus an ongoing commitment from taxpayers of £130,000 in subsequent years. This
224 equates to a subsidy of £2.45 per journey and is far beyond the financial resources
225 currently available to the Council. Such a pass system would also take about 2
226 years to implement.

227 The Executive did however ask officers to explore whether we can introduce cross
228 ticketing to those destinations which attract significant numbers of passengers.
229 Such destinations would include the University, the Hospital and possibly some
230 retail developments.

231 The introduction of a more general "go anywhere" smart card may have to wait until
232 the current YorCard trials in South Yorkshire have been completed. The extension
233 of the Yorcard system to York - which is similar to the Oyster card used in London -

234 would not only get over the difficulties of cross ticketing on buses but would also
235 open up the opportunity of Metrocard type use on local trains.

236

237 Cllr Andrew Waller

MEETING	EXECUTIVE
DATE	29 JULY 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS WALLER (CHAIR), STEVE GALLOWAY, SUE GALLOWAY, JAMIESON- BALL, REID AND VASSIE
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR RUNCIMAN

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

51. WEB-CASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which examined the feasibility of web-casting meetings of full Council and other Council meetings, as requested in a motion approved by full Council on 10 April 2008.

The report examined the background to web-based multi-media tools (otherwise known as web-casting) and presented the following options for Members' consideration:

Option 1 – do not introduce a web-casting facility.

Option 2 – introduce a web-casting facility either by leasing a system on an 'out-hosted' basis, or by purchasing a system to run in-house.

If Option 2 were chosen, Members were invited to consider whether to test the market by means of a tender process (**Option 2a**) or to seek a negotiated contract (**Option 2b**). They were also invited to agree whether or not to proceed on the basis of a one-year pilot period should they decide to lease an 'out-hosted' system.

Information on other authorities using web-casting, together with costing comparison figures and an example of data protection information, was annexed to the report (Annexes A, B and C). Information requested by Members regarding the impact on staff resources of introducing web-casting was included in a further annex added to the agenda after publication (Annex D).

Having noted the advice of the Shadow Executive on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: That Officers be asked to produce a report into the piloting of a scheme which would utilise the Council Chamber for web-casting, using an 'out-hosted' system, this report to identify the revenue and resource implications of such a scheme.

REASON: On the basis that an out-hosted system would not require ICT to support the system and to ensure that the advantages, disadvantages, costs and resource implications of web-casting are fully understood before committing the Council to its introduction.

52. UPDATE ON CARRY FORWARD ISSUES AND KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE ALLOCATION OF SURPLUS RESOURCES

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which provided an update on the carry-forward issues deferred by the Executive on 30 June 2008, together with information on the level of the Council's reserves over the next three years. A decision was sought as to whether any of these reserves should be used for specific purposes in 2008/09.

The Executive had requested further information on the following carry-forward proposals:

- Unexpected social care costs of £275k - further work was on-going in this area and a report would be brought back in September.
- Compensation payment requests to the Guildhall Orchestra and two other users of the Barbican – further information was set out in Annex 1 to the report.
- £38k set aside in contingency for 2008/09 to include further schemes in the IT Development Plan that were on a reserve list – summaries of the updated business cases for these bids were presented in Annex 2.

A forecast position on the level of the Council's reserves for the current financial year through to 2010/11 was attached at Annex 3 to the report. This indicated a decline in the 'headroom' figure above the minimum level of reserves in each successive year, falling from £9,845k in the current year to £1,937k by the end of 2010/11. The report advised that it would not be prudent to organise a separate allocation process to spend a one-off amount of reserves at this early stage in the year. However, the Executive's approval was sought in principle to create a separate fund for 'invest to save' schemes that would contribute to meeting the Council's efficiency target. This would enable high levels of reserves to be used early in the period, on the basis that they were repaid from efficiencies made as levels of reserves began to fall.

Having noted the advice of the Shadow Executive on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: That an 'invest to save' fund of £1m be established from the General Reserve.

REASON: To build capacity in the Council to deliver the increased efficiency target.

A Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.05 pm].

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Meeting of the Executive

29 July 2008

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

Web Casting of Council Meetings

Summary

1. This report asks Members to consider the benefits of web-casting council meetings and the cost effectiveness of such an exercise.

Background to Report

2. At a meeting of full Council on 10 April 2008, the following Motion was moved by Cllr Scott:

“Council notes the increasing use of technology by public institutions to communicate with the public. Such developments can be evidenced in every public sector organisation in the country. Mainstream political parties have taken advantage of new forms of communication such as YouTube and MySpace websites, as well as social networking websites such as Facebook and Bebo.

Council believes that technological developments in the public sector should not be limited to exercises such as consultations and voter registrations. The public should be given every opportunity to engage with the decision-making process and, more specifically, meetings of Full Council. This could open up the decision-making process to a whole new section of the local population, making it more inclusive and transparent. Not only will this enable the public to witness elected Members debating local issues, it could also prompt better communication between councillor and constituent, strengthening local democracy.”

To this end, Council requested that:

- i. Officers prepare a report on the feasibility of web-casting meetings of Full Council, as well as other Council meetings, which considered:
 - The various options, from contracting outside services to providing services ‘in house’.
 - The cost effectiveness of such an exercise, based on overall cost against numbers likely to view web-casts from outside City of York Council.
 - The feasibility of recordings being placed on the Council’s website and other hosting websites.
- ii. Officers present the report to the Executive not later than 17 June, in order that the issue can be referred to the 30 June meeting of Full Council.

Background to Webbased Multimedia Tools (Webcasting) – What is it?

3. Multimedia can be described as any audio visual form of communication. When using the internet as the transmission medium, audio visual multimedia is called 'Webcasting' or streaming. Anyone with access to the Internet, an appropriate viewing tool (Real Player, Windows Media Player,), and speakers/soundcard on their PC can then view such transmissions 'live'.
4. Because the video signal is digital, such transmissions can also be captured (archived) and viewed at a later date. The audio video transmissions can be viewed via the Internet or an Intranet. The size of the picture can vary depending on the distributor and indeed the viewer, but traditionally the actual picture is about 3" square which is seen as the right quality combined with the expected functionality on a webpage i.e. this is not TV but internet where the viewer expects to do more than just watch. What is key is that even at the lower encoding rates the movement is smooth and, more importantly, the sound quality is good¹. Although access to the transmitted content would be via the Councils website (or the Intranet for staff / Members), this would simply provide a link to a specialised website from which the video would be streamed.
5. The two main key features of webcasting are:
 - the ability to stream both live and archive (on demand) content - this makes it an extremely effective communication tool as it enables viewers to look at content where and when they want.
 - by using the internet as the transmission medium it is also possible to attach or link related information to the webcast to enhance the viewing experience e.g. agendas, reports and minutes.
6. The system installed can be either fixed or mobile and will consist of cameras and a control/encoding station. The cameras capture the proceedings under the control of an operator from the control station. The audio is captured from the Councils existing audio system (or, with the mobile system, from its own audio system) it is then synchronised to the video and encoded for transmission. The encoding of these feeds is then done using either Real Player or MS Media Player both being the most widely available webcasting software packages.
7. The Control PC also allows the operator to include details such as speaker names, agendas and presentations within the webcast. The encoded feed is then 'transmitted' through a sufficient internet connection (normally an ISDN or ADSL line) into the supplier's network where it is placed on a transmission (viewers) page. The supplier will 'host' (hold the webcast on file for any viewer to call to view) for an agreed period and provide sufficient bandwidth for unlimited viewers to the webcast during this period. A viewer will access the webcast from a link provided on the Councils website into the transmission page.

¹ It should be noted that, sometimes, organisations claim to be webcasting if they have one or more fixed cameras at a variety of locations showing a particular view which is updated every few minutes. This is normally known as a 'webcam' and is different to 'webcasting'.

8. In addition the system will automatically archive the webcast including inserting key jump points such as speaker names or each agenda item, for ease of viewing at any time after the live webcast. The system thus avoids lengthy post production editing by the operator.

Consultation

9. The Head of ITT Operational Services has been fully involved in sourcing the available systems capable of providing webcasting to City of York Council, and has advised that in-house resources are currently insufficient to provide the required services.
10. Information on the introduction of webcasting at other Councils has been looked at. Overall councils seem to regularly achieve viewing numbers of between 500 and 1000 per month. Interestingly 3 of the top 10 council websites (as determined by their usage) include councils that incorporate multimedia on their site. Examples of councils using a webcasting service detailing how they promoted their service initially, what ongoing promotion they do and their average viewing figures are detailed in Annex A.
11. It is recognised nationally that when compared with the previous 'attendance' at meetings, the regular virtual attendance has been deemed to exceed expectations and certainly far exceeds the physical attendance capacity in most council chambers.

Options

12. Having considered the information contained within this report, Members may decide:
 - i) not to introduce a webcasting facility;
 - ii) to proceed with the introduction of a webcasting facility either by leasing a system on an 'out-hosted' basis – this means that we would not need ICT to support the system either through direct management/support or server infrastructure, or purchasing a system to run in-house (subject to further investigation). If this option is pursued, the Council could choose to:
 - a) test the current market by means of a tender process. The difficulty with a tendering procedure may be finding a sufficient number of companies that can provide a service in this niche market. The Council would need to be satisfied that such a service provider could meet all the requirements of the Council, not just some of them. A project team would need to be set up to oversee the tender process which, of necessity would need to run alongside an ITT development bid for the funding that would be required. The Council could still decide not to accept any tender.
 - b) Seek a negotiated contract – if there are a limited number of companies (three or less) who are able to provide a system that would meet our requirements, it may be necessary to seek a waiver of standing orders in order to pursue a negotiated contract. However, without an

assessment of the market by way of tender or seeking expressions of interest it is difficult to assess whether enough viable suppliers exist.

- iii) If a decision is taken to lease an 'out-hosted' system, agree whether or not to proceed on the basis of a 1-year pilot period.

Analysis

13. There are a number of arguments in favour of web-based multimedia:

External Benefits

- a. It encourages eParticipation:

- The eDemocracy landscape is still being defined however web based multimedia is being consistently mentioned as part of the emerging picture. The EU's eTEN, eEurope eGovernment and i2010 objectives encourage public bodies to implement and benefit from a full range of eParticipation tools to broaden the participation of citizens in the democratic process.
- A increasing number of leading Councils are already using the technology and have identified the following as key points in their reasoning:
 - i. Seamless transmission of meetings/events/briefings makes the council more accessible and transparent to its citizens.
 - ii. There is a clear case for showing that webcasting encourages eParticipation by giving citizens access to core council business without the intermediary of Council minutes or media coverage .
- It provides the ultimate record of a meeting ensuring full transparency to all of the process.
- A recent EU project called 'eParticipate'², evidenced not only an increase in virtual attendance but also an increase in physical attendance and this increase was seen as a result of the increase in publicity about the democratic process.

- b. It is a flexible medium which delivers value for money:

- Webcasting is not limited to formal meetings and as such can deliver additional value for money. Other content that has been webcast by local authorities includes:
 - i. Events (internal and external within the community) e.g. in late April 2007, the West Essex PCT held a number of road shows about their emerging strategy for healthcare in West Essex. The Epping road show was held at the Civic Offices and was webcast live by Epping Forest District Council. The PCT were recharged for the event at cost. Promotion of the event was the responsibility of the PCT, and as no effective publicity was undertaken by the PCT, very few people attended. Having said that, the webcast was subsequently viewed by over 200 people so could be seen as having reached significantly more people than could have been accommodated at a public meeting. This was a valuable lesson in planning events with third party organisations.

² eParticipate: Webcasting by Local Authorities -

<http://www.public-i.info/documents/eParticipate%20Validation-Evaluation%20Report%202006.pdf>

- ii. Community news programmes
 - iii. Internal and external briefings
 - iv. Promotional content (e.g. tourism videos)
 - v. Training content
- c. It is a strategic communication tool which provides content in a format people respond to:
- Today's younger generation use web-based services providing a means to interest this group in local politics.
 - Multimedia can make a website more visually exciting compelling and engaging and therefore informative
 - Viewers have growing expectations of the functionality they will find on websites. Multimedia content is the next level of quality and functionality increasingly expected
 - It allows a council to communicate without the mediation of the media
 - The public increasingly gets its information from multimedia sources, in particular television. Web based multimedia (e.g. webcasting) communicates with people using a medium that they are increasingly familiar with and trust
14. There are also a range of potential ideas which could enhance the information provided through a website by incorporating Multimedia. For example one of the more innovative uses has been the creation of frequent community news programmes of events and news from within a council region. By capturing video footage either from the community or from within the council an informative news programme could easily be developed.
15. Internal Benefits
It has a wide application within a Councils communication strategy. For example it can be a useful internal communication tool to enable officers and members to keep up to date with current debate or issues and for providing internal briefings. Maximising internal communications would realise value:
- webcasting and archiving staff briefings for those who cannot attend would be one way to use webcasting to enhance and improve communication with staff
 - enabling live transmissions to be delivered to numerous staff instantly at their desks.
 - Training such as Members Code of Conduct or other such statutory training could also be considered.
16. Other Benefits
The Audit Commission has given a positive rating to the communication benefits of webcasting within the CPA process. Indeed, a recent MORI survey³ found that 'higher rated CPA authorities are more likely to use webcasts'. In addition, the 'PARSOL Better Planning Operating Standards'⁴ defined the webcasting of planning meetings as one of the graded standards for the delivery of better planning services in an e-enabled environment.

³ eDemocracy Survey 2005 – Local authorities experiences of democracy on and off line. www.e-democracy.gov.uk

⁴ PARSOL Better Planning Operating Standards <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/aio/30692>

17. Content is undoubtedly key to the success of any multimedia project and not just content in the video but the contextual information linked to the video. To achieve the best value from the project and a good take up, a planned programme of meetings and events would need to be considered. These events should be based on those likely to improve communication both with the community and with staff, engage citizens, boost use of the service, and create a positive PR image.
18. Concerns
Whilst webcasting clearly increases the viewing potential for meetings, making the experience more widely transparent, it would be difficult to prove that webcasting leads to increased opportunities for residents to 'influence' or contribute to decision-making by Members.
19. Any contractual arrangements would need to provide sufficient hours viewing time, as the length of some meetings is unpredictable. It would be essential to ensure viewing time was maximised and uninterrupted.

What's Right for York?

20. In-house or not?
The benefit of a system that is not run in-house is that the infrastructure that would be needed to be installed and supported is not a drain on the Council's ICT Service. On demand video streaming requires dedicated ICT resources and equipment that is not cost effective to provide in house. Specialist software would also be needed to run a content management system and operators console.
21. The alternative, is to lease a system. For example, a company called Public-i, based in Hove in Sussex (the main market leader in the supply of web casting facilities to local authorities), offers a service that includes the hosting of the system (the video files and microsite are run by them) thus minimizing the impact the system has on the Council's IT resources. At each webcast meeting their staff monitor the recording and the operator has messenger contact with them during the meeting which means that the continued streaming of the webcast can be ensured. An annual contract with Public-I would include annual service charges, leasing costs and a maintenance/fault resolution Service Level Agreement (SLA).
22. Static or Portable Units?
A fixed static system would require substantial cabling work in the Council Chamber. This would require careful consideration in order to achieve minimal damage to the chamber including consultation with English Heritage.
23. Portable versions do exist but whilst smaller in design, the equipment is still bulky and heavy and would require a number of staff to move it within the building and the use of a Council vehicle to take it off site. There is also the health and safety issue of the cables running around a room. The benefit of a portable unit is that it could be used to service Committee Rooms 1-4 as well, and could be used off site for special events.
24. Another alternative would be to use video cameras to capture content instead of a webcast unit. This has proved successful for some Councils as video cameras are often a more viable option for less formal events. This would not allow for 'live' webcasting as capturing events via video camera does mean that an element of

editing is required to ensure that content uploaded to the website is of a good standard, and some further minor investment in software would be required to facilitate this.

Other Considerations

25. Compatibility

Any webcasting system introduced would need to be compatible with the audio system within the Council Chamber, and in order to enable this, it may be that the current audio system would need to be upgraded or replaced.

26. It should be noted that the Public-i system is compatible with our Committee Management System and therefore would provide an integrated approach to council meetings. The cost of their system is detailed in Annex B together with comparison figures from another company.

27. Internal Support

Members need to consider how this multimedia work can be supported by the authority i.e. it is a good example of a multi-service project. For example:

- Some work would be required from the website team to ensure a high level of integration within the website to webcasts from Council news and content pages. This would involve the insertion of many entry points into webcast content from different website pages and the linking of news stories to webcast content.
- It would require a very high level of commitment from staff in Democratic Services with support from colleagues in ICT. Staff responsibilities would need to be formally recognised and integrated into job descriptions as necessary.

28. Potential Cost Savings

A cost benefit analysis is difficult to conduct. However, an increase in viewing numbers compared with previous attendance at most council's is significant on its own. There will be the initial cost for purchasing and installing a system and then there is the cost per hour for 'Live' web casting. Obviously, the more hours of 'Live' web casting, the more expensive it is. On the other hand, there are some potential cost savings as follows:

- Time and travel savings for residents (i.e. can 'attend from home')
- Time and travel savings for Officers / members (reduction in need to pay travel expenses)
- Recording of meetings. Ability for Officers to complete minutes during normal working hours
- Reduction in printed matter required to communicate with residents, officers and Members
- Reduction in telephone costs to brief staff

29. Advertising

Successful webcasting is invariably dependant upon the publicity of the facility combined with the content. Even for formal statutory Council meetings significant increases in viewing numbers has been evidenced and sustained by other

Authorities. However, ongoing success requires ongoing publicity and planning to ensure the webcast provides suitable content in an easily accessible manner. This can be achieved with minimal cost by limiting the advertising to the Council website and via relevant council correspondence e.g. in the case of a contentious planning application that is due to be dealt with at a webcasted meeting, any letters issued relating to the application could include a reference to the forthcoming webcast.

Corporate Priorities

30. The introduction of webcasting as a way of allowing the public to access of decision-making process is in line with our the following direction statements:

‘Our ambition is to be clear about what we will do to meet the needs of our communities, and then to deliver the best quality services that we can afford’

‘We will be an outward looking council, working across boundaries for the people of York’

31. It is also in line with our value statement – ‘Encouraging improvement in everything we do’.

Implications

32. **Financial** – In order to introduce webcasting, an ITT Development bid would need to be made. The bid would need to be rated against other bids in order to guarantee the availability of the necessary funding. It should be noted that the first round of bids has already taken place. Alternatively, it may be possible to acquire funding through the provision of a growth bid as part of the forthcoming budget round for 2009-10.
33. An outline of the costs of a webcasting system are outlined in Annex B. If a decision is taken to install a static system in Committee Rooms 1-4 then there will be further costs incurred for the additional cameras and cabling work.
34. **Legal** – The electronic record may stand as evidence in a court or tribunal.
35. **Information Technology** – there will be ITT implications associated with Options (ii) & (iii) in the report to a greater or lesser extent. These will need to be explored in more detail at tender stage, should a decision be taken to proceed.
36. **Equalities** – The introduction of a webcasting system would benefit those members of the public who are otherwise unable to attend a public meeting due to physical disability and/or issues of accessibility.
37. **Other** – There are two issues that will need to be addressed:
- Data Protection - Annex C contains an extract from an agenda which shows how another Council has dealt with this issue.
 - Freedom of Information - Some Councils have received requests from the public for copies of recordings of meetings. These requests were considered to be Freedom of Information requests and CD’s of the meetings were sent to

those requesting them with a letter asserting copyright, indicating that copying or commercial use was not allowed without permission

37. There are no known HR, Crime & Disorder or Property implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

38. If a decision is taken not to proceed with webcasting of council meetings the opportunity to further improve transparency in our decision-making and our equality aims may be missed.

Recommendations

39. Members are asked to:
- Note the contents of the report
 - Identify their preferred option as outlined in paragraph 10 and refer the motion and this report to the meeting of Full Council in September 2008.

Contact Details

Author:

Melanie Carr
Scrutiny Officer
Tel No.01904 552063

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Quentin Baker
Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services
Tel No. 01904 551004

Dawn Steel
Democratic Services Manager
Tel No.01904 551030

Report Approved **Date** 14 July 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial Implications
Patrick Looker
Finance Manager
Tel No. 01904 551633

ITT Implications
Roy Grant
Head of ITT Operational Services
Tel No. 01904 551966

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes

Annex A – Information on other Authorities using webcasting

Annex B – Costing Comparison Figures

Annex C – Extract from another council's agenda front sheet showing data protection information

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Council	Viewing Figures	Advertising Campaign
<p>Epping Forest District Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Started web casting in September 2006 - Web cast live all meetings in Council Chamber & Committee Room 1 - Plus, a portable unit which can record meetings held elsewhere & civic events etc - these recordings are then uploaded for viewing at a later stage via the archive - Council has previously produced films on the Environment & their local Museums – these have also been uploaded to the archive for viewing 	<p>September 2006 – 387 May 2007 – 1416 May 2008 – 1813</p> <p>Majority of hits are on the archived recordings and not the 'live' events</p>	<p>Publicity Photos Recorded a number of events as dry runs prior to going live</p> <p>Initially promoted via local press and on Council website</p> <p>Link to live events and archived footage on Council website homepage</p>
<p>Bristol City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Started web casting in September 2007 - Web cast Full Council and Cabinet meetings plus 1No. Select Committee & any contentious Development Control meetings - Static unit in Council Chamber & 1 mobile unit - can be viewed live or via archive - Archive kept for 12 months - System requires one person to operate it (not a technical expert) 	<p>September 2007 – 495 October 2007 – 1456 November 2007 – 1708 May 2008 – 3530</p> <p>Majority of hits are on the archived recordings and not the 'live' events</p>	<p>Initial promotion through local newspaper and council website</p> <p>Link to live events and archived footage on Council website homepage</p> <p>Local newspaper shows web casts on their website as well</p> <p>Meetings being web cast are distinguishable on-line by a clapperboard symbol next to name of meeting</p> <p>Development Control refer to web casting in any letters/paperwork they send out relating to contentious issues</p>

<p>Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Started web casting at beginning of 2007 - Static unit fitted in one committee room - Limited web casting carried out - only planning meetings - Can be viewed live or via archive - Archive only kept for six months 	On average 450 – 600 per month	<p>Initial promotion via local press</p> <p>Now only advertised via Council website</p>
<p>Lancashire County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Started web casting in - What meetings? 	1200 – 1500 per month	Advertised on their Council website only
<p>Hull City Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Started web casting in January 2004 - Web cast Full Council meetings only - Plan to upgrade system to enable web casting of Cabinet meetings and any meetings dealing with contentious issues via a mobile unit - 3No. static cameras in Council Chamber - Can be viewed live or via archive - Archive kept for six months 	<p>January 2004 - 168</p> <p>Now averaging 600-800 per month</p>	<p>Initial promotion via council website and local newspaper</p> <p>Advertised now via Council paper - 'Hull In Print' and Council website</p>

Public-I	1 Room Setup Hardware / Services	Based on 40 hours per month / 480 hours per year	Based on 35 hours per month / 420 hours per year	Based on 30 hours per month / 360 hours per year	Based on 25 hours per month / 300 hours per year	Based on 20 hours per month / 240 hours per year	Based on 15 hours per month / 180 hours per year	Based on 10 hours per month / 120 hours per year	Based on 5 hours per month / 60 hours per year
Purchase Costs									
F600 with 4 Cameras Configured Encoder Video-Switcher DVD Recorder Headphones Flat Screen Monitor Keyboard & Mouse Sony EV1-D100p Cameras, with bracket and cabling	£7,269								
Operating Services Hosting & Streaming / Software licence (provided by Public-i)		£12,480	£11,670	£10,860	£10,050	£9,240	£8,430	£7,960	£6,810
Support Prices Hardware installation / Software training / Equipment upgrade & maintenance Based on 2 days site survey; 2 days Installation; 2 days training and on site launch. On going time expected at 2 days per annum equipment maintenance		£2,645	£2,645	£2,645	£2,645	£2,645	£2,645	£2,645	£2,645
Webcast Monitoring / Customer Support		£11,655	£10,242	£8,829	£7,416	£6,003	£4,590	£2,837	£1,764
Total	£7,269	£26,780	£24,557	£22,334	£20,111	£17,888	£15,665	£13,442	£11,219

DATA / POWER CABLING

One-off cost

On-going costs

Data cabling (Electron)	£	2,500.00		
Power cabling (CYC)	£	3,000.00		
Dedicated broadband connection (recommended &	£	1,000.00	£	2,000.00

More extensive site survey by cabling people to confirm the routing of the cable and York Heritage giving authorisation to run cables via the route identified.

CAVEATS

Proper site survey by solution provider required for final quote

More extensive site survey by cabling people to confirm the routing of the cable and York Heritage giving authorisation to run cables via the route identified.

A more detailed scope of how the service will be used including frequency of meetings and duration would be required.

CYC staffing costs to operate during meetings not included as this could be done by the Democracy Officer at no extra cost

Additional Committee Rooms will require audio equipment as only the Council Chamber has Auditel

If a decision is taken to proceed with installing a static system in Committee Rooms 1-4 then additional cabling costs will be incurred and additional cameras will be required etc

- Council Chamber assumed 4 cameras
- Smaller committee rooms may require fewer cameras

Media on Demand

	Costs		First Year Cost	
Hardware				
StreamPac:				
Rack Mount Unit inc. installation & training	£	4,250.00	£	4,250.00
HP Laptop with Adobe Premier Pro 2	£	1,350.00	£	1,350.00
Sony EVID70P Remote control camera	£	735.00	£	2,940.00
Audio Mixer - 10 input	£	50.00	£	50.00
Headphones, cables & accessories	£	140.00	£	140.00
Hosting/Leasing				
Streampac software licensing per month	£	500.00	£	6,000.00
- Site Management				
- Council branding				
- 4 hours content per month				
- Archive hosting for 1 Year				
Services				
Auditel integration	£	3,500.00	£	3,500.00
1 day training (2 people)	£	495.00	£	990.00
Total			£	19,220.00

DATA / POWER CABLING

		One-off cost	On-going costs
Data cabling (Electron)	£	2,500.00	
Power cabling (CYC)	£	3,000.00	
Dedicated broadband connection (recommended & TBC)	£	1,000.00	£ 2,000.00

CAVEATS

Proper site survey by solution provider required for final quote

More extensive site survey by cabling people to confirm the routing of the cable and York Heritage giving authorisation to run cables via the route identified.

A more detailed scope of how the service will be used including frequency of meetings and duration would be required. Currently costs based on a total 4 to 5 hours streaming session per month). Additional streaming hours £75 / hour (Media on Demand)

CYC staffing costs to operate during meetings not included as this could be done by the Democracy Officer at no extra cost

Additional Committee Rooms will require audio equipment as only the Council Chamber has Auditel

If a decision is taken to proceed with installing a static system in Committee Rooms 1-4 then additional cabling costs will be incurred and additional cameras will be required etc

- Council Chamber assumed 4 cameras
- Smaller committee rooms may require fewer cameras

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***Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 2nd August, 2007***

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Simon Hill, Senior Democratic Services Officer
email: shill@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 564249

Members:

Councillors R Morgan (Chairman), K Angold-Stephens (Vice-Chairman), D Bateman, R Church, M Colling, R D'Souza, Mrs A Haigh, Mrs H Harding, J Hart, D Kelly, G Mohindra and Mrs P Richardson

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND

Webcasting Notice

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site - at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy and copies made available to those that request it.

Therefore by entering the Chamber and using the lower public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for web casting and/or training purposes. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the upper council chamber public gallery area.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Democratic Services Officer on xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

1. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

1. This meeting is to be webcast. Members are reminded of the need to activate their microphones before speaking.
2. The Chairman will read the following announcement:
“I would like to remind everyone present that this meeting will be broadcast live to the Internet and will be capable of repeated viewing and copies of the recording could be made available for those that request it.

If you are seated in the lower public seating area it is likely that the recording cameras will capture your image and this will result in the possibility that your image will become part of the broadcast.

This may infringe your human and data protection rights and if you wish to avoid this you should move to the upper public gallery”

Webcasting Council Meetings - Briefing Note

This briefing note is in support of the report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services and in response to the points raised at EBS on Tuesday 22nd July 2008,

Impacts on staff resources and other projects if the proposal to introduce web casting was approved?

- 1) There are resource implications for Democratic Services, Corporate Procurement, Neighbourhood Services and ITT to establish and then manage web casting services from within the Council Chamber.
- 2) Staff resource time would be required to manage the cabling and additional electrical point installation, arrange a dedicated connection into the Guildhall and to work with the Corporate Procurement team to manage the procurement quotation stage and agree a contract.
- 3) A full requirements specification will need to be drawn up and agreed to issue to a minimum of three suppliers to provide responses and costs.
- 4) The full quotation stage will take around 8 weeks in total from issuing the quotation documents to contract signature and this will require approx 6 days of procurement officers time, 8 days of a business development officers time and 6 days of democratic officers time.
- 5) This requirement is not currently in either the business development or the corporate procurement teams work plan, and the impacts of this procurement will need to be assessed in accordance with both to identify any risks to the delivery of existing projects based upon when the work on this project if approved and funded would commence. But in terms of other IT Development projects, this proposal would have minimal impacts given the low number of days required from ITT.
- 6) The on going resource implications would be 1x Democratic Services officer required to control and manage the recording of the meetings
- 7) All of the above implications are based upon the option of procuring a managed and hosted service as outlined in the report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

Impacts of delivering the solution/service internally?

- 8) The option to deliver this service internally would introduce risks to the overall solution design and service provision as Council staff have no knowledge or experience of designing or providing these very specialised broadcasting services. These risks include;

- A fragmented procurement of the different components required could lead to compatibility or integration problems.
 - Any fault investigation and resolution would be more problematic and protracted.
- 9) Internal delivery of the service would also require upgrades to the Council's infrastructure that would need further investigation to provide accurate costs for the items identified below, but as a guide, some recent work to explore the costs of the increasing the Council's internet provided costs of approx £25K connection charge and an ongoing additional revenue cost of approx £40K per annum. This would need some in-depth design work before we could provide a definitive price
- A significant upgrade to the Council's internet link to cope with the increased demand.
 - Additional server and storage capacity to deliver the new service from and to store recordings including archived material.

Breakdown of the take up of this service at other Council's?

- 10) It's impossible to identify where the viewers of this service are based, as their pc id would be linked back to their internet provider. But this information could be secured through an on line web site survey or customer surveys if required.
- 11) Another Council who are already providing web casting services confirmed that their Planning meetings are attracting the most interest to date.

Secure experience/involvement from local organisations

- 12) Officers have noted this request and have started the engagement process to establish if there are some benefits or experiences to be gained from any collaborative working with our local organisations that may have already deployed this service.

Contact Details

Author

Roy Grant

Head of ITT Operational Services

Tel: 01904 551966

Report from the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion

This year promises to present the city with a wide range of opportunities in Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion. The past year has seen an amazing range of events, activities, and programmes, some of which are listed below.

Leisure

Oaklands Gym

The facilities at the Oaklands Centre have been recognised this year when the gym received the first ever IFI mark in the country for having all our ancilliary facilities available to the disabled.

Pools

Work is now well underway at the Oaklands School site to provide a replacement for the much loved but aging Edmund Wilson Pool. Completion is set for autumn 2009. I am working with officers to ensure that the public understand that this is a public pool and not a school pool, as this is plainly key to the pool's success.

The revamp of Yearsley Pool has been a huge success with a substantial increase in visitor numbers.

Users April/May/June 07	25,534
Users April/May/June 08	34,396

% increase year on year	34.7%
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We can also be proud as a city of the reduction in energy bills that have come about as a result of the changes to the plant room, walls and roof. It is my understanding that energy bills have been cut by more than half, with accompanying reductions in CO2 emissions.

The university has confirmed its commitment to a public pool on the university site and we are now working with the university to finalise exactly what will be built, where and when.

Climbing rocks

An initiative that will I trust be supported by all parties is the installation of climbing rocks at the Rawcliffe Country Park, with funding from a lottery award. While many primary school children are able to go away together on an adventure course for a few days during their final year before moving on to secondary school, not all parents can afford this. It is therefore to be welcomed that the city is developing its own adventure course closer to home. The tendency to remove all risk from children's activities cannot help their long term development and providing challenging activities such as the new climbing rocks will help to redress the balance.

Football

During the year the council reached an agreement with the Football Foundation on a programme to improve football pitches and expand provision across York. This will also see improvements to changing facilities to encourage participation in sport across the city.

While we have seen improvements in the participation rates in sport and exercise by young people, there is plainly much work to do for young and old alike, here in York as everywhere else. The city has recently indicated to government that it wishes to introduce free swimming for the over 60s. We have also expressed an interest in providing free swimming for under 16s. We are waiting to here is government funding will be sufficient to enable us to offer this.

Community Stadium

Last week the executive agreed to the immediate appointment of a project manager to develop and deliver a community stadium by 2012. It can only benefit the city to have clarity about where the stadium might be situated, what facilities it might contain, who might use it, how much it might cost, etc.

Active York

Active York was awarded the regional building capacity award by Sport England for being the best community sport association in the region. A.Y. has also been chosen by the National Association for Voluntary Community Action for a six month national pilot to work with CVS to support the voluntary sport sector. A.Y> is currently giving out the first tranches of funding for the young and gifted, and has been given funding to distribute to support young people's participation in sport. York is the only area where a Community sports Network has been given this responsibility.

Lastly, on sport: City has comfortably exceeded the target for young people (5-16) participating in at least 2 hours of high quality PE/School sports per week. We set ourselves a target of 87% by next year – we hit 90% a year early

Culture

It has been a very busy year culturally in York.

From the Illumination week last winter, with its fantastic use of the Minster for a new interactive lighting work; to the acclaimed York Youth Mysteries; the Grand Tour, with its outdoor exhibition of paintings across the city; and the numerous other events that have taken place across the city, the culture departments of the council have shown flair and imagination in making the most of the resources available to them. I have also been delighted to see the way in which CYC has worked with other organisations, such as Visit York, to create a vibrant environment that is attractive and exciting to residents and visitors alike, with initiatives such as City of Festivals and Making York More Eventful.

Culture is not just about events though. The Arts departments have worked hard to promote artistic activity among community groups, in our schools and in the many opportunities they provide for young people to participate in arts, theatre, dance and music. Earlier in the year I attended the launch of the York Arts Academy. The work on show demonstrated what our young people are capable of, with some stunning works of

art on display in the basement of the Merchant Adventurer's Hall, along with some engaging performances of early music, and works for string quartet and orchestra. The city's Music Manifesto, providing wider opportunities for young people to make music has to be welcomed.

To this work must be added the work officers are doing to advance the 2012 Cultural Olympiad, the Childrens Centre Arts Programme and the inter-partnership work on creating a cultural quarter for the city. All this contributes to the opportunities for the years ahead to showcase local talent and attract national and international talent to the city.

The York Youth Mysteries earlier in the year demonstrated this city's commitment to allowing new voices to present their responses to our traditional mystery play cycle. I believe this plays a vital role in ensuring that the plays will continue to be performed for many years into the future, both in their traditional form and in new ways that reflect contemporary response to these wonderful stories.

Major Events

Meetings have been held with Yorkshire Forward to explore what new major events might be hosted in York.

CYC and Universities

Officers and I are working with the universities to see how we might better promote the work of arts undergraduates and graduates in the city. With 500 arts graduates a year emerging from our universities it is clear we have a resource we need to champion both for cultural reasons and economics reasons. I believe this may offer us exciting ways of developing the evening economy and promoting our peripheral streets.

Cultural Quarter

Through the year I have had a number of meetings with the stakeholders in the Cultural Quarter. These include the National Railway Museum, the Minster, the Theatre Royal, the York Museums Trust, Visit York and others. It is clear that there is a recognition that team working offers a way for all those involved to communicate to funding bodies the coherence of the city's plan for the years ahead. I am happy to see this because York's cultural offer is vital to the economic success of the city. No city can rest on its laurels and assume that people will visit tomorrow because they visited yesterday. Planning new attractions and new ways of presenting our existing attractions is key to the cultural quarter initiative.

Big Screen

A number of meetings have been held over the past year to explore the viability of York being host to a Big Screen. The idea will now be included in the Options and Issues paper for the City Centre Action Plan. This has to be a good move, offering the opportunity to contribute to what residents tell us time and again that they want – a vibrant city. Obviously there has to be clarity not only about where such a screen might be situated but also what content it would show.

The Barbican

I am assured that the planning issues that had delayed progress on the refurbishment of the Barbican are all but resolved. There are two minor issues that should be sorted within days. I would then expect CYC to obtain from Absolute Leisure a firm date as to when the refurbishment will commence. I understand that Absolute Leisure are still confident that the works can be completed before Easter 2009.

Libraries

This has been an exciting and challenging year for libraries. York has shown just what can be achieved in modern library services by its refurbishment and redesign of the Acomb library. This has proved so successful that there is a continual struggle to maintain a large enough book stock at the library. Against a national backdrop of declining use of libraries, Acomb has seen usage figures treble, while adding a full adult education curriculum to activities in the building. We are increasing the numbers of new members at a rate considerably above the targets we have set ourselves, a result that puts us in the top 5 nationally, I understand. The new library at New Earswick follows the same template as the new Acomb Explore Library and, adjoining the school, provides adult education opportunities for residents. Since its re-opening visits are up 20% and issues up 30%.

Against that, we are now advancing plans to transform our central library. Here the numbers of visitors has declined and it is clear that we need to bring this building into line with what York residents now expect. To that end we are developing a £5m programme that will see this building bring together the best of the old and the new to create a space fit for the 21st century.

The Summer Reading Challenge this year saw 3,527 children participating – 20% of the 4-12 population, nationally in the top quartile. 2,200 people took part in the Big City Read initiative over the summer, reading the Railway Children, to co-incide with the very successful production of the play of the Railway Children, produced by a partnership of the NRM and the Theatre Royal (which drew an attendance of around 20,000 I understand).

A number of other initiatives, such as self-ticketing, will be trialled in our libraries in the months ahead to ensure that York is ahead of the game and that libraries across the city continue to thrive.

York's 3rd Literature Festival is planned for March 2009.

The Archives

The city archives, currently being reviewed by Richard Taylor who is on secondment from the NRM, have won funding for a project looking at the nuclear history of York in partnership with the bunker in Acomb.

Lastly on libraries, library subscription to ancestry.com now gives free access to the site for library members - over 40,000 hits so far. Our Family and Local History Librarian is offering sessions on starting family history and how to use ancestry

Parks & Open Spaces

York Parks continue to receive Green Flags in recognition of all the excellent work that goes into maintaining them (Rowntree park, Glen Gardens and West Bank park). I was able to attend the award ceremony at the Royal Armoury in Leeds last year and saw for myself the pride our parks teams have in the work they do.

It is hoped that the Rawcliffe Country Park will be next to reach the standard to win an award, and investment in the Hull Road park will reap dividends in the years ahead.

Allotments

We have record numbers of tenants on allotments this year (991 in August 2008) with a new CYC site at Strensall and support to the community site in Wheldrake, of which I am a proud tenant with tonnes of fresh vegetables to my name! The city has been awarded the Ackland Trophy by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.

Looking forward this coming year will see the production of the first comprehensive pack of leaflets promoting the city's parks and gardens. All main sites will have full colour leaflets packed with useful information for visitors, produced in consultation with the friends/relevant community groups.

Social Inclusion

This is a new addition to my portfolio. Over the past year the following has been achieved:

-
- The single corporate equality scheme for July 2008-July 2009 is now in place. This builds on and updates Pride in Our Communities- The Equality Strategy 2005-8
- A programme of Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) of key Council strategies is progressing as planned. Resulting EIAs will be considered at an EIAs Fair to take place under the auspices of the Social Inclusion Working Group in November 2008. Findings will be fed in the service planning process.
- Upward 1,500 members of staff have received Equality and Inclusion training
- We are in the process of recruiting a corporate Equality Data Project Officer.
- Public engagement in the Social Inclusion Working Group has been extended to include "expert witnesses"

Since June we have made progress on organising with partners a Holocaust Memorial Day to commemorate the suffering of all those who have been victims of genocides around the world during the past century, as a way of remembering the tragedies in our pasts and focussing our minds on avoiding repeating the same mistakes in the future..

Credit Crunch Event.

I have been working with officers to put a multi-agency event on in the Guildhall later this year, to which residents will be able to come to receive help and advice on many of the issues that impact on them as a result of the credit crunch: from benefits advice to help with energy efficiency, from help on reducing household bills to conflict resolution and mediations, and so on.

Valuing People Partnership and Social inclusion Working Group

These organisations are currently involved in enabling a diverse group of residents across the city, including those with learning difficulties or physical disabilities, and a variety of minority groups to participate in and contribute to the Local Development Framework. It is important to broaden the number of residents who have the opportunity to contribute to these documents that will shape the development of this city in the years to come.

Conclusion

I want to thank all the many officers who have worked so hard, with energy and enthusiasm and vision, to improve cultural and leisure provision across the city, and to thank the officers who work hard to steer us towards being a more socially inclusive council and city. It is a privilege to work with you all.

Christian Vassie

Executive member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion.

16th September 2008

Scrutiny Report to Council

Report of Chair, Scrutiny Management Committee

Since the last report to Council, there have been two meetings of Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC).

In July 2008 we considered a feasibility report on a possible review on 'Planning Enforcement'. A decision was taken to proceed with the review and an ad-hoc scrutiny committee was formed. The aim of the review is to identify ways of bringing enforcement cases to earlier completion through reviewing City of York Council's approach to planning enforcement and court action.

In September we considered a feasibility report on a possible review of the new Council Headquarters at Hungate. Having agreed to proceed with the review, an ad-hoc committee is currently being formed and due to meet in October 2008.

We also received two final reports in September. One from the Education Scrutiny Committee on their review of School Governors and one from the Barbican Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee. Our comments were fed into the final reports prior to them being presented to the Executive.

Finally, SMC continues to receive updates on the implementation status of recommendations arising from previously completed scrutiny reviews. We are currently looking at the recommendations from reviews completed in 2006 and 2007. Where full implementation has been evidenced, the recommendations will be signed off and we will continue to monitor those that are outstanding.

Education Scrutiny Committee

The Education Scrutiny Committee has met twice since the last council meeting. In July they agreed the final report for their review of School Governors and in September they considered a feasibility report on a possible review of the Delivery of the Extended Schools Agenda which they agreed to carry out. This review is scheduled to take six months and will look specifically at the affordability, quality and take up of childcare and activities for children aged 5-11.

In addition, they have set themselves a workplan for the remainder of the municipal year which includes receiving updates on all their previously completed reviews. To date they have signed off the recommendations from two reviews - the Provision of Facilities for Young People in the City and the Extended Schools Service.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Health Scrutiny Committee continues to receive updates on issues they've investigated previously, i.e. dental services in York. They have also recently agreed a programme of work for the remainder of the year, which includes contributing to the 'Annual Health Check' assessment process for NHS Trusts

and working with Council Officers who are responsible for procuring the host organisation for the new Local Involvement Network (LINK).

In addition, the Health Scrutiny Committee are undertaking a review of dementia. The aim of the review is to look at the experiences of older people with mental health problems (and their families/carers) who access general health services for secondary care in order to identify where improvements may be required. Members have considered a scoping report for this review and agreed a timetable. As part of the review an informal evidence gathering session was held on September 1st 2008. Members, Officers and external organisations attended this event.

Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committees

Traffic Congestion

The ad-hoc scrutiny committee are currently working on a residents survey which will be due to be sent to all York households. The survey will gather residents views on the draft recommendations arising from this scrutiny review in order that they can inform the final report.

Cultural Quarter

This ad-hoc committee have recently held their first meeting to consider a scoping report for this review and agree a timetable and the level of officer involvement required. SMC have agreed to Sir Ron Cooke being co-opted to the Committee for the duration of the review.

Planning Enforcement

Arrangements are underway to begin this review.

Councillor John Galvin

Chair

Scrutiny Management Committee

September 2008

Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies**Executive**Executive Member for Corporate Services

To appoint Cllr Moore in place of Cllr Jamieson-Ball

Committees / Council bodiesStaffing Matters & Urgency Committee

To appoint Cllr Sue Galloway as 1st Lib Dem substitute, in place of Cllr Jamieson-Ball

Strategic Policy Panel

To appoint Cllr Moore in place of Cllr Jamieson-Ball

Housing and Adult Social Services Advisory Panel

To appoint Cllr Morley as Chair, in place of Cllr Sunderland

To appoint Shirley Gumley and Terry McLaughlin, of the York Residents' Federation, as Co-opted Non-Statutory Members of the Advisory Panel.

East Area Planning Sub-Committee

To appoint Cllr Hyman as Chair, in place of Cllr Moore

Audit & Governance Committee

To appoint Cllr Jamieson-Ball in place of Cllr Moore

Scrutiny Management Committee

To appoint Cllr Ayre as 1st Lib Dem substitute, in place of Cllr Moore

Health Scrutiny Committee

To appoint Cllr Morley in place of Cllr Moore

Traffic Congestion Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee

To appoint Cllr Orrell in place of Cllr Moore

Planning Enforcement Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee

Liberal Democrat (2) Cllr Hyman (Chair)
Cllr Waudby

Labour (2) (2) Cllr Pierce
Cllr Douglas

Conservative (1) Cllr Wiseman

Appointments Panel – Head of Finance

Liberal Democrat (2) Cllr Runciman
Cllr Moore

Labour (2) Cllr Gunnell
Cllr Looker
Cllr Pierce (*sub*)

Conservative (1) Cllr Gillies

Partnership Bodies

The Derwenthorpe Partnership Forum

To appoint Cllr Brooks as the Conservative Group's representative, in place of Cllr Wiseman

York Joint Consultative Committee

To appoint Cllr Moore in place of Cllr Jamieson-Ball

Member Champions

To appoint Cllr Hyman as Older People's Champion

Outside Bodies

The Glen Family Resource Centre (Members' Quarterly Visits to Children's Homes)

To appoint Cllr Wiseman as the Conservative Group's representative

Local Government Yorkshire & Humber – Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership

To appoint Cllr Moore in place of Cllr Jamieson-Ball

Pension Fund Sub-Committee

To appoint Cllr Moore in place of Cllr Jamieson-Ball

York Business School Ltd.

To appoint Cllr Moore in place of Cllr Jamieson-Ball

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