

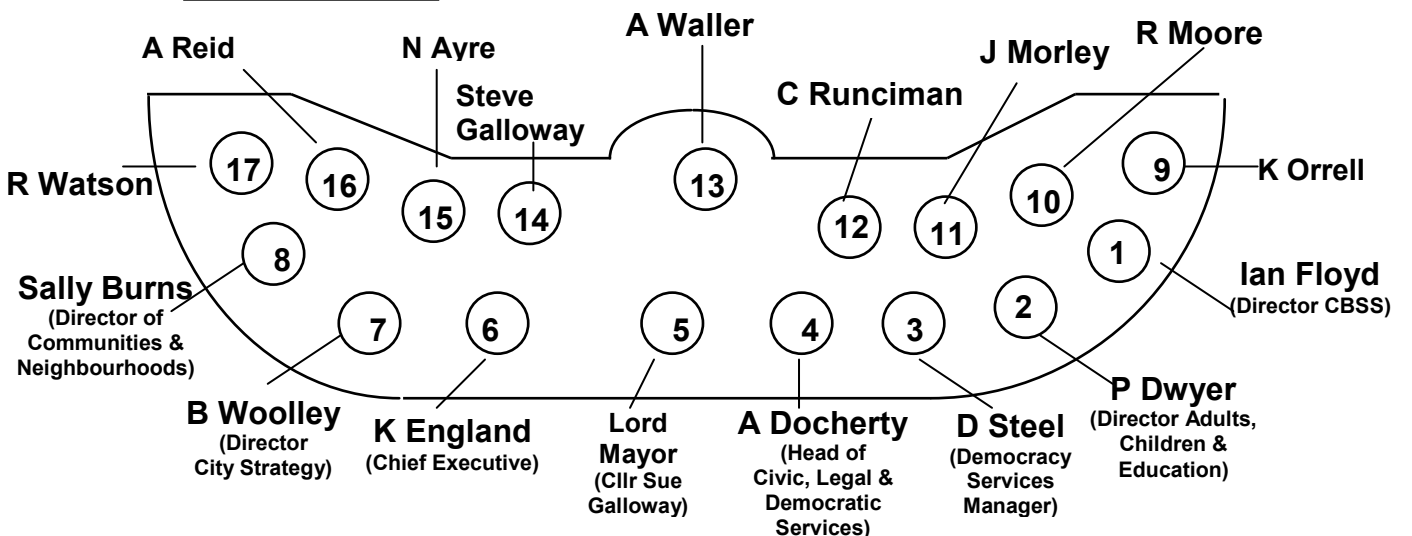
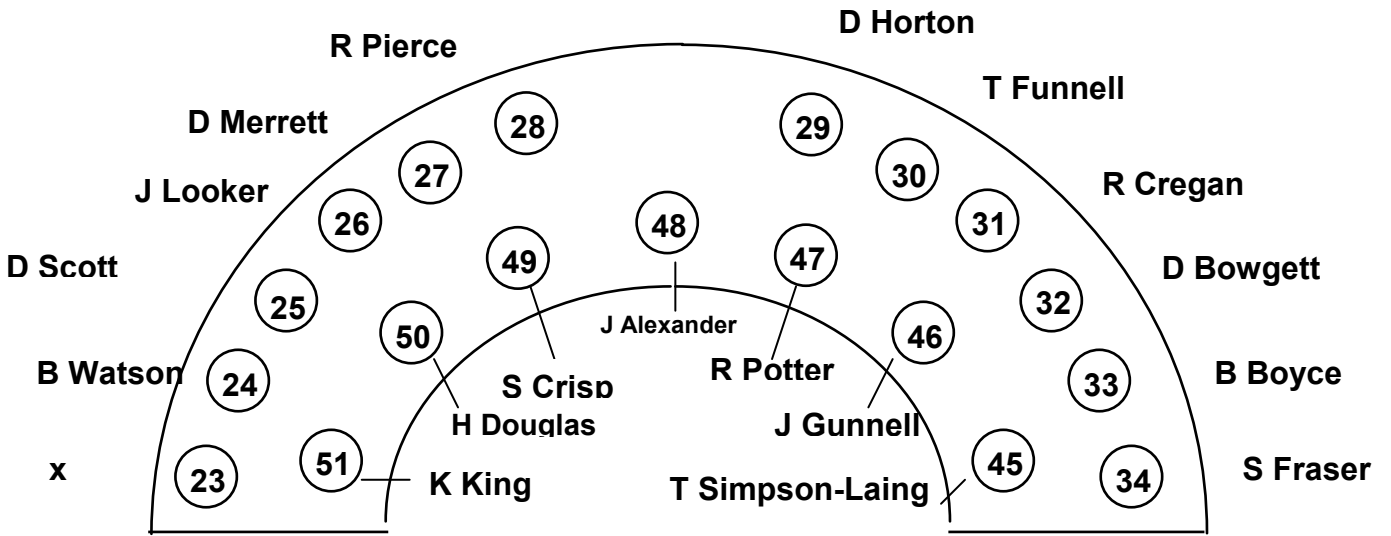
## CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

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, 15 July 2010 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 - 36)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 8 April 2010 and the Annual Council meeting held on 27 May 2010.

### **3. Civic Announcements**

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

### **4. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting, any member of the public who has registered to address the Council, or to ask a Member of the Council a question, on a matter directly relevant to the business of the Council or the City, may do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Wednesday, 14 July 2010.**

### **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:

- (i) Cllr D'Agorne, on behalf of residents calling for the introduction of a 20 mph zone in Danesmead and Fulford Cross, in the vicinity of the Steiner School / Danesgate.
- (ii) Cllr D'Agorne, on behalf of residents calling for the introduction of a 20 mph zone outside Fishergate and St George's Schools.
- (iii) Cllr Douglas, on behalf of residents of Haxby Road, regarding road safety outside Haxby Road School.

- (iv) Cllr Alexander, on behalf of local residents, regarding a play area behind Kirkdale Road.
- (v) Cllr Crisp, on behalf of Holgate residents, regarding front of house refuse collections.

**6. Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations**  
(Pages 37 - 50)

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	6 July 2010	Minute 27: Community Stadium Business Case <i>(use of £198k LABGI money to progress the scheme)</i>
		Minute 28: York Sports Village Swimming Pool <i>(increase capital grant to the project to £3m)</i>

**7. Recommendations of the Standards Committee** (Pages 51 - 58)

To consider the following recommendations for approval from the Standards Committee

Date of Meeting	Recommendations
25 June 2010	Minute 11: Annual Monitor of Member Training and Development <i>(Note: a copy of the Annual Monitor report is attached)</i>

**8. Scrutiny - Annual Report** (Pages 59 - 82)

To receive the Annual Scrutiny Report from Councillor Galvin, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee.

**9. Report of Executive Member (Pages 83 - 86)**

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services, 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 8.2.1.

**10. 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/mqListOutsideBodies.asp?bcr=1>

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

- North Yorkshire Police Authority – meeting on 05/02/10
- Quality Bus Partnership – meeting on 23/03/10
- Safer York Partnership – meetings on 01/02/10 and 21/06/10
- Without Walls Partnership – meeting on 11/02/10
- NHS Foundation Trust - 16/03/10
- York & North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership – meeting on 04/03/10
- Economic Partnership/Skills Board – meeting on 13/01/10

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

**11. Appointments and Changes to Membership (Pages 87 - 88)**

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

## 12. Notices of Motion

To consider the following Notices of Motion under Standing Order 12:

### **A – Motions referred from the Executive in accordance with Standing Order 12.1(a)**

None

### **B – Motions submitted for consideration directly by Council, in accordance with Standing Order 12.1(b)**

#### (i) From Cllr Waller

“Council welcomes the coalition government’s action to restore freedoms for local people and local authorities that had been reduced by the Labour government centralising power in Whitehall.

Council welcomes the moves to cut red tape for local authorities and restore freedom in local decision making. Council feels that the abolition of centrally driven inspection regimes will allow local authorities to focus on delivering services that meet the needs of local people, rather than spending time ticking boxes as demanded by central government.

Council also supports the initiative put forward by the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg MP, encouraging people to have their say on repealing unnecessary laws and restoring individual freedoms.

Council urges York residents to take part in the Your Freedom consultation and resolves to promote the consultation to residents using the City of York Council website.”

#### (ii) From Cllr Alexander

“This Council notes:

1. That the Council is making £7m savings this financial year, which includes redundancies;

2. That the Coalition Government announced on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June £2.8m of cuts to the Council budget, including almost £1m in education and £1m in transport;
3. That the Coalition Government announced in the budget on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June an increase in VAT to 20%, despite pre-election pledges from both coalition partners not to do this;
4. That an increase in VAT will cost the Council at least £150k per annum;
5. The Coalition Government's cut to North Yorkshire Police of £1.1m;
6. The Coalition Government's review of £23m allocated to York for Park & Ride provision;
7. That the Coalition Government have announced a two-year public sector pay freeze, cuts in child tax credits for families on a moderate income, freezing child benefit, cutting disability living allowance, cuts in the housing benefit of the unemployed, abolishing the health in pregnancy grant, restricting the sure-start maternity grant to the first child and scrapping tax relief for the video games industry;
8. That the Coalition Government have abolished Regional Development Agencies, when Yorkshire Forward was helping, amongst other developments, the stalled York Central development, the Renaissance project and the Minster Piazza project;
9. That the Council is planning a further £10m of cuts in the next financial year.

This Council resolves:

1. To recognise that the current financial situation of the Council is made worse by recent cuts and announcements from the Coalition Government;
2. To request the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer stating this;
3. To request the Chief Executive to write to both of York's MPs calling on them to lobby against further cuts."



(iii) From Cllr Healey

“Whereas:

- Thirteen years of a high-spending Labour government coupled with international economic instability has left the country in extremely difficult economic circumstances regarding the money available for public expenditure; and
- In the coming 2011-2012 fiscal year CYC will be facing a reduced grant settlement combined with a mandatory low or a zero council tax rise, resulting in substantial additional fiscal pressures well beyond those addressed by the More4York programme

Therefore, this Council instructs the Executive to provide to all Council Members, before 16 November 2010, details of the More for York programme, its contribution to meeting savings targets for 2011/12, broad details of savings areas in individual directorates and full details of the extent to which the More for York programme will meet the financial targets in 2011/12, in order to:

- build an understanding across York regarding the economic choices facing the city and
- allow our staff, private and voluntary sector partners the opportunity to propose potential alternative delivery measures.”

(iv) From Cllr Brian Watson

“Council condemns the demolition of the former Peaseholme Centre and asks the Executive to agree to reserve the site for public use.”

(v) From Cllr Runciman

“This Council acknowledges:

- The excellent results achieved by students in schools across the City and the hard work of children, staff and parents to gain those results
- The significant role of local authority officers in challenging and supporting schools to drive up and maintain standards

- The importance of the ‘family’ of York schools, working together co-operatively to support and help each other in the best interests of all York’s children.

Council notes the recent representations by the Local Government Association with all-party support, stating that:

- The strategic role of the local authority should be retained within the forthcoming Academies Bill
- That local authorities should retain responsibility for improving and maintaining standards in all schools
- That local authorities should continue to ensure fair access to school places, appropriate provision according to numbers of children and
- Ensure by careful scrutiny that public money is used wisely and not wasted.

Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State supporting the views of the LGA and stating:

- That, particularly in a unitary authority the size of the City of York, the local authority’s role in maintaining and strengthening the family of schools is vital and should remain
- That experience in managing the local education system is one of the most important contributing factors to the success of local schools and that they should not be centrally controlled
- That there should continue to be clear local accountability through the local authority and the knowledge that elected Members bring to the education of the City’s children
- That all these significant factors should be taken into account during the development of the Academies Bill as it progresses through Parliament.”

### **13. Questions to the Executive Leader and Executive Members received under Standing Order 11.3(a)**

To deal with the following questions to the Executive Leader and / or other Executive Members, in accordance with Standing Order 11.3(a):

- (i) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:  
“Will the Executive Member for City Strategy join with me in

expressing great disappointment at the cut to the funding for Park & Ride sites at Askham Bar, the A59 and Wigginton Road and will he inform Council what action he is taking to get his government to reverse this situation?"

(ii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D'Agorne:

"Regarding Fulford Road public transport improvements, what is the average inbound bus journey time now, compared with the experience prior to the changes to the layout?"

(iii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D'Agorne:

"Regarding Fulford Road public transport improvements, has there been any significant increase in the outbound journey time since the changes?"

(iv) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D'Agorne:

"Regarding Fulford Road public transport improvements, what further action is proposed to reduce the illegal air quality levels at the junction of Main Street and Heslington Lane?"

(v) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Kirk:

"Would the Executive member confirm that the recent coalition government announcement about the abolition of the RSS imposed housing number targets means that the City's draft green belt is now free from the threat of development?"

(vi) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Horton:

"Can the Executive Member for City Strategy comment on the current running reliability of the ftr, whether this meets agreements made between the City of York Council in 2006 and how he plans to ensure that First improve service reliability, with particular concern to early morning running?"

(vii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Firth:

"In view of the promise by the newly elected Member of

Parliament for the Outer York Constituency that he would ensure that funding was made available to provide a dual carriageway on the line of the A1237 northern by pass, would the Executive Member for City Strategy indicate how much additional funding for transport has been made available to York as a result of the MPs representations?”

- (viii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:  
“Will the Executive Member for City Strategy write to the Transport Minister and support his call to introduce a 20 mph speed limit to all town centres and residential streets across the country?”
- (ix) To the Executive Member for City Strategy from Cllr Keith Orrell:  
“Would the Executive Member for City Strategy pass on the congratulations of the Council to all who have been involved in reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the City by 36% during the last 2 years?”
- (x) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:  
“What is the projected impact on recycling rates for 2011-12 and 2012-13 of the roll-out of kerbside recycling and fortnightly collection being extended to all properties?”
- (xi) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:  
“Will the Executive Member indicate whether she will write to the Housing and Communities Ministers to request that they do not hold up the Housing Revenue Account review, initiated by the former Housing Minister John Healy MP, so that the building of much needed council housing is not held up?”
- (xii) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:  
“What work has been done on developing a waste reduction alternative to the 25 year PFI waste treatment plants proposed for York and North Yorkshire for this authority to consider before committing to the contract?”

(xiii) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D'Agorne:

“What additional annual costs will face the Council:

a) to pay for the loans and

b) to pay if the volume of waste is less than projected over the lifetime of the contract?”

(xiv) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

“Will the Executive Member pledge to residents in private rented accommodation in York that they will not lose their homes when the cuts to Housing Benefit take place, and will she outline how the Council will protect these residents?”

#### **14. 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](mailto:fiona.young@york.gov.uk)

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services 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.

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**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL**

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 8th April, 2010, starting at 6.30 pm

**Present:** The Lord Mayor (Cllr John Galvin) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

**ACOMB WARD**

Simpson-Laing

**BISHOPTHORPE WARD****CLIFTON WARD**

Douglas  
King  
Scott

**DERWENT WARD**

Brooks

**DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD**

Holvey  
Reid  
Sunderland

**FISHERGATE WARD**

D'Agorne  
Taylor

**FULFORD WARD**

Aspden

**GUILDHALL WARD**

Looker  
B Watson

**HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD**

Firth  
Hogg  
R Watson

**HESLINGTON WARD**

Jamieson-Ball

**HEWORTH WARD**

Boyce  
Funnell  
Potter

**HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD**

Ayre

**HOLGATE WARD**

Alexander  
Bowgett  
Crisp

**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

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON  
WITHOUT WARD

Moore  
Watt  
Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Kirk  
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway  
Sue Galloway  
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Horton and Hudson



**91. 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 **prejudicial** interests were declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Healey	12 – motion (i)	Owner of business premises
Morley	12 – motion (i)	Payer of business rates
R Watson	12 – motion (i)	Payer of business rates
Boyce	12 – motion (v)	Employed as a lecturer at York College
Brooks	12 – motion (v)	Employed by Manchester College and member of Association of Teachers & Lecturers
Hyman	12 – motion (v)	Wife works in adult education

The following **personal** interests were declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Merrett	6 – Leader’s report	Member of Friends of the Earth (re paragraph 5 of section 10 of the report)
Scott	7 – Urgent Motion	Member of National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers
Taylor	9 – Executive Member’s report	Employee of City Screen, which launched the Cold War DVD (mentioned in Lifelong Learning section of the report)
Potter	12 – motion (ii)	Chair of The Avenues Children’s Centre
D’Agorne	12 – motion (v)	Advisor to York College
Crisp	13 – Constitutional Update	Retired member of UNISON
Fraser	13 – Constitutional Update	Member of retired sections of UNISON and Unite (TGWU / Acts sections)
Simpson-Laing	13 – Constitutional Update	Member of UNISON

**92. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 4 February 2010 and the minutes of the Budget Council meeting held on 25 February 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to Minute 76 of the 4 February being amended to record that Cllr Brooks, and not Cllr B Watson, seconded the recommendations of the Audit & Governance Committee.

**93. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Lord Mayor invited Members to stand for a minute's silence in memory of the former Lord Mayor and Hon Alderman Jack Archer and the former Lord Mayor John Boardman, both of whom had recently died.

**94. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Lord Mayor announced that there had been two registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Gayle Johnson, as Chair of St Nicholas Fields, invited all Members to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of this organisation, to be held at the environment centre on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> May. She outlined the history of St Nicholas Fields, its partnerships with other bodies in the City and the support it had received from the Council.

Mr Proctor, as Chair of Holtby Parish Council, spoke in support of the petition to be presented by Cllr Brooks regarding kerbing on Holtby Main Street. He explained that kerbing in this area would help prevent water run-off and erosion to verges and was essential for maintenance of the highway.

**95. PETITIONS**

Under Standing Order 7, petitions were presented by:

- (i) Cllr Gillies, on behalf of local residents calling on the Council to adopt the footpath between Bracken Hills and The Green, Upper Poppleton.<sup>1</sup>
- (ii) Cllr Simpson-Laing, on behalf of residents calling for the introduction of a 20 mph zone in Almsford Drive.<sup>2</sup>
- (iii) Cllr Simpson-Laing, on behalf of Carr Junior School, requesting the installation of dog dirt bins.<sup>3</sup>
- (iv) Cllr Brooks, on behalf of local residents, requesting kerbing on Main Street in Holtby village.<sup>4</sup>

Action Required

2: Schedule report on Executive Forward Plan and keep relevant Executive Member updated on progress SS  
KS  
1, 3 and 4: Schedule reports on Executive Forward Plan for appropriate meeting and keep relevant Executive Members updated on progress

**96. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER**

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

In reply to questions asked by Opposition Group Leaders in their responses to the report, the Executive Leader indicated that:

- Demolition of the former Peaseholme Centre on the Hungate site had been carried out because the building was not fit for purpose and so that work could be carried out to make the site ready for future use.
- Options for the University pool would be coming forward in the summer.
- Work on the Community Stadium was progressing in line with the agreed timetable.
- He had already been involved in talks about re-introducing the Mystery Plays to Museum Gardens.

All Group Leaders paid tribute to Cllr Galvin, the Lord Mayor, who was chairing the last Council meeting of his term of office, and to Alison Lowton, the Interim Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services, who would be leaving the Council on 14 April.

## **97. URGENT MOTION**

The Lord Mayor announced that he intended to deal at this point with an urgent, all party motion of which notice had been given and the wording circulated around the Chamber.

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Scott seconded that:

“Council is concerned at the situation that has resulted in Jarvis employees in the City being made redundant by the administration of Jarvis.

Council regrets that a rescue package has not yet been found to enable the company to continue operating from the City with the potential loss of expertise and associated Headquarters jobs.

Council notes that infrastructure work on the railway network will need to be undertaken in the long term, providing opportunity for employment by remaining infrastructure companies.

Council calls upon the Government and Network Rail to continue to deliver the current volume of renewals it has contracted with Jarvis to the current timetable, either by Jarvis whilst in administration or by another contractor; and, if Jarvis cannot be saved as a company, ensure they transfer to similar rail jobs, to ensure that employees continue to be employed.<sup>1</sup>

In the interim period, Council requests the Government to take steps to ensure that former Jarvis employees receive assistance supported by government agencies, Yorkshire Forward and Department of Works and Pensions.<sup>2</sup>

Council requests that the Chief Executive ensures that City of York Council provides the support through Future Prospects and other actions to retain Jarvis jobs in the City.”<sup>3</sup>

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

RESOLVED: That the above urgent motion be approved.<sup>1-3</sup>

Action Required

1 & 2 : Write to the Government & Network Rail in the terms agreed KE

3. Liaise with Future Prospects to ensure that this support is provided KE

**98. SCRUTINY - REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

A written report was received from Cllr Paul Healey, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council, on 4 February 2010.

**99. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

A written report was received from Cllr Nigel Ayre, the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion.

Notice had been received of ten questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The questions were put and answered as follows:

(i) From Cllr Taylor:

“The procurement of a new operator for the Barbican Auditorium remains a high priority for the residents of Fishergate and the city generally. How will the Executive Member ensure that the chosen bidder is one which will provide a quality entertainment programme for citizens and visitors, and not merely turn the facility into a conference centre which would provide nothing for the people of York?”

***The Executive Member replied:***

*“The Executive set out the areas in which the bids for the Barbican are to be judged. Three criteria were drawn up as a result, one of which relates to the programme to be provided in the auditorium. This states that: ‘Bids will score best on this criterion that meet the Council’s aspiration for an extensive and wide ranging programme of music, comedy, dance and entertainment of a quality likely to draw a sub-regional and regional audience and which provide opportunities for community activities and involvement.’ Bidders are required to provide detailed information about:*

- *Established relationships they have with artists, promoters, agents and tour companies and the extent to which this will enable the bidder to book and deliver high quality entertainment events at the venue*
- *Any touring programmes that the bidder is currently delivering at other comparable venues in the UK*
- *The types of programme that the bidder will be able to bring to the Auditorium, demonstrating how those events will complement, add to or otherwise impact on events currently provided at other entertainment venues in the City*
- *The number of customers the bidder would expect to attract to entertainment events in the Auditorium*

*This marking scheme will ensure that bids offering high quality entertainment have the potential to score best in the assessment process.*

In response to a supplementary question from Cllr Taylor concerning the weighting given to these criteria, the Executive Member replied that this had been reported to Scrutiny and the Executive and that he was happy with the eventual decision on weighting.

(ii) From Cllr Crisp:

*“The Executive Member speaks in glowing terms about the patronage at Energise since it opened last year. Can he say how long other parts of the city will be forced to continue with a lack of recommended swimming lanes?”*

***The Executive Member replied:***

*“The investment in Yearsley and Energise has secured the future of significant lane provision in the City. The Active York facilities study showed a requirement in York for an additional 12 lanes of swimming provision. Our commitment to a pool on the East of the City aims to secure a further 12 lanes for the next 50 years. This would result in more lane provision than York had in 2003. This pool will be York’s first ever competition standard pool.*

*Council officers and myself have been in constant dialogue with the university to find ways of mitigating the funding gap and delivering the new pool at the University site.*

*As the Leader has already mentioned in his report, the University have done further work on the design of the pool. Myself and officers have met with the University on several occasions to discuss this work and options are being considered that maintain the quality of the facilities seen in previous reports but also reduce construction costs. As a result, the funding gap is narrowing.*

*Once more finalized costings have been completed we will be looking to reconvene the University Pool Steering Group, allowing interested parties from across the spectrum to consider the proposal and ensure it meets the City’s needs.*

*I share the Leader's expectation that we will be able the report to Council on a way forward early in the summer."*

In response to a supplementary question from Cllr Crisp, the Executive Member replied that he was unable to quantify the current funding gap until final costings had been completed.

(iii) From Cllr Firth:

"Has the Executive Member got an update on the bid to Sport England's Community Investment Fund mentioned in the report?"

***The Executive Member replied:***

*"Yes, I am pleased to say that we have been successful in securing around £190k over 3 years which will allow us to progress our 'Everybody Active' programmes for active living. This 3 year project will employ 5 full time Participation Officers who will have themes of work around Sports Participation, Active Living, Older People, Exercise Pathways and Disability Participation.*

*These themes have been chosen to address identified need in increasing activity opportunities in the City for targeted groups who participate the least, and in activities that have been recognized as being able to engage individuals the most. For example, cycling and walking, work place activity, social sports and first step activities to support those with medical conditions or requiring a bit more of a helping hand than others to get active. The work of the new posts will build on the success of other projects and will recruit over 2,500 new participants and 300 volunteers to sport and physical activity in the City.*

*The posts will work across a range of sports and activities to enhance and develop programme opportunities and capacities of groups. Sustainable pathways will be developed and opportunities maximized by working with schools, clubs, facility managers, non-traditional venues, volunteers, coaches, instructors and by responding to local needs.*

*In supporting these programmes, the role of posts will include:*

- Facilitating the introduction of National Governing Body led activity programmes in traditional and non-traditional settings*
- Supporting volunteers / coaches / instructors to access relevant local and regional training opportunities, funding streams and local schemes of recognition of good practice*
- Linking regional and national strategies from various relevant partners to support local planning, funding applications and project delivery*
- Working with other organisations who have had successful capital funding bids to maximise usage of facilities*
- Linking projects to player, coach and volunteer pathways*
- Contributing to the process of achieving nationally recognized accreditation standard (i.e. Club Mark, Walking for Health Accredited Scheme)*

- *Identifying and securing funding sources for targeted activity programmes*
- *Wider working across each co-ordinator's work area to maximise impact*

(iv) From Cllr Crisp:

"On user figures for Yearsley pool, will the Executive Member specify how much of the increase in numbers is from paying swimmers and how much is due to the Government's free swimming offer to those mentioned in his report?"

***The Executive Member replied:***

*"Following this Executive's decision to sign up to free swimming, across the City over 17,000 residents have signed up for free swims for the over 60s and the under 16s. The revamped Yearsley has seen an increase in usage from 2008 to 2009 of more than 27,000.*

*130,000 users in 2008 (Jan. to Dec.)*

*157,000 users in 2009 (Jan. to Dec.)*

*We did not count figures in the same way prior to this scheme, therefore it is not possible to compare data from before the free swimming started on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 with the period up to 31 December 2009.*

*Figures appear to show that there is an increased income over and above the DCMS funding for free swims, which seems to suggest that there has been a significant increase in the number of users who are not entitled to the free swimming offer.*

*The picture therefore is speculative and far from clear. It is impossible to ascertain how many regular swimmers have taken up the free swimming offer and have therefore not contributed to the increased usage figures. Equally, it is impossible to say how many of the new users are fee paying swimmers and how many have visited because of the free swimming offer.*

*I think the best that can be assumed is that the increase in usage is due to a combination of the improvement in facilities bringing in more people generally and the free swimming offer."*

<p>At this point, the time limit for this item expired and the Executive Member undertook to provide written answers to the remaining questions. The questions, and written responses, are set out below.</p>
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(v) From Cllr Hogg:

"Can the Executive Member tell Council how successful he believes the partnership with Aviva has been?"

***Reply***

*"The partnership is a very successful one that has been nationally recognised as good practice. It was shortlisted for the Local*

*Government Chronicle Awards 2010 in the private / public partnership category and mentioned in the recent DCMS policy statement, 'The Modernisation of Public Libraries'. A meeting with Vince Cable MP has led to engagement with the FSA at the highest level. Library and Aviva staff have volunteered to deliver the financial capability workshops and this has been hugely beneficial for library staff – where this work has led to and increase in self confidence and skills. A Marketing Toolkit has been developed using Aviva expertise that allows library staff to get out into their communities to promote the workshops.*

*The partnership is working with York St John University to evaluate the project and to ensure that we capture the impact of taking part in the workshops on people. A Financial Capability Questionnaire will be one of the key legacies of the project.*

*The partnership has significantly contributed to the transformation of York Library into an Explore Centre. The new Explore Centre will open on 24 May with more books, state of the art learning rooms equipped with the latest learning technologies, a quiet room, a café, changing facilities, self service machines, a new flexible ICT learning centre and free Wi-Fi Internet throughout. Its target is 1 million visitors a year by 2012.*

*As we look to the future, the partnership is working hard to engage with local third sector bodies such as CVS and CAB (meetings have already taken place) and we are actively involved with the Credit Union – for instance, people will be able to join the Credit Union at all of our libraries.”*

(vi) From Cllr Crisp:

“Can he explain what concerns he has about the methodology of the Active People survey and what representations has he made in this regard?”

**Reply**

*“The Active People survey is conducted by Mori on behalf of a number of the cultural agencies. Having this data represents a great step forward for local authorities. I would advise Members to be cautious about all statistics, but as a point of clarification in terms of this report the specific caution I have is in terms of how the data has been used. All surveys are useful only to the extent that they are correctly interpreted bearing in mind factors such as the sample size used. We saw this recently when the Active People 2 study, based on a smaller sample size than that of Active People 1, was deemed to show a significant decrease. When the final figures of Active People 3 were included to make the sample sizes comparable, this decrease was shown to be illusory. Unfortunately, even august organizations such as the Audit Commission have shown themselves to be vulnerable to this misinterpretation of data. I am pleased to note York’s recent performance in terms of the percentage of people doing 3 x 30 minutes of sport per week.”*



- (vii) From Cllr Vassie:  
“What plans does the Executive Member have to facilitate a major production of the York Mystery Plays?”

**Reply**

*“In 2004, following a report commissioned by the Council, the York Mystery Plays Co-ordinating Committee was brought together. This pulled together plans for:*

- *The York Guilds mystery plays on wagons to be produced every four years as part of the agreed cycle. These were produced in 2006 and will take place again this year*
- *The York Youth Mysteries. Produced by the Council and partners in 2008*
- *A York Minster Mystery Plays in 2010, ten years after the highly successful Millennium Mystery Plays in the Minster*

*As Members will be aware, the York Minster Mystery Plays have not been able to go ahead in 2010 because the organising board have not been able to secure a 6 week period in the Minster, free from capital works, between now and 2015.*

*I will be bringing a proposal to the Executive in May to support a new York Mystery Plays 2012 Partnership, led by York Theatre Royal, which is proposing a major community production for August 2012, to be performed in Museum Gardens.*

*The vision is to create a bold, exhilarating piece of story-telling theatre on an operatic scale and to re-invigorate the tradition and the language and make these plays accessible to a modern audience. To stage the biblical stories in a way that resonates with both past and present and appeals to those of a religious faith or none. The aim is to bring an extraordinary and passionate performance out of our community, resourced with the highest aesthetic and production values, to remind us that the ownership of this tradition rests with the people of York.”*

- (viii) From Cllr Crisp:  
“Can the Executive Member elaborate on what work has taken place to attract pre-Games training camps to York?”

**Reply**

*“Firstly the Council ensured at the outset that all potential venues in York registered as pre-games training camps facilities. The City of York has four venues amongst the 600 nationwide accepted by LOCOG (London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games) as Pre Games Training Camps. The four venues are Huntington Stadium, York Community and Gymnastics Foundation, the University of York, and York College. These are included in the official Pre Games Training Camp guide (which includes training camp information on the official 2012 DVD, brochure and website).*

*The City Council worked with its partners on the application that was submitted by the City’s strategic sports partnership, Active York. Active*

*York remains the strategic body that is co-ordinating York's Pre Games Training Camp activity.*

*For the last six months, York has been actively promoting its offer to a group of West African countries through official links with the Gambian National Olympic Committee and its partners ZANOCA (Zonal Associations of National Olympic Committees of Africa). As part of this initiative, York hosted a successful two day visit last year from the Executive Director of the Gambian NOC, who had the opportunity to meet York officials and visit York's Pre Games Training Camps. To develop the relationship further, York recently (March 2010) supported a York St John University 'led' sports science conference to the Gambia. This sporting exchange is viewed as a catalyst for developing a long term relationship with West African countries, which will hopefully lead to a Memorandum of Understanding being signed between York and the Gambia or members of ZANOCA to support the potential for Pre Games Training Camps in York in the summer of 2012. It is also hoped to develop these links across Sport, Education and Culture to involve the 2014 Commonwealth Games and a potential World Cup in England in 2018. Further progress is expected in the coming months."*

- (ix) From Cllr Holvey:  
"What is the Executive Member doing to encourage pre Olympic games training camps to locate in York?"

**Reply**  
"As above."

- (x) From Cllr Crisp:  
"On the Barbican, will the Executive Member say by which year he would consider the process to bring the Barbican back into use to have been successful?"

**Reply**  
"The Council will be in a position to make a formal decision on the operator in September. The re-opening date will depend on the scheme chosen, but all the bidders shortlisted have the capability to move forward in a timely manner."

## **100. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- Local Government North Yorkshire & York – meeting on 5/10/09
- Economic Development Partnership Board – meeting on 19/10/09
- York & North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership – meeting on 3/12/09
- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue – meetings on 9/12/09 and 10/2/10
- Safer York Partnership – meeting on 1/2/10

- NHS Foundation Trust – meeting on 16/12/09

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

## 101. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED: That the appointments to and changes to membership of Committees, Outside Bodies and Working Groups set out on the list circulated around the Council Chamber (and attached as an annex to these minutes) be approved.

## 102. NOTICES OF MOTION

### \* (i) Business Rates

It was moved by Cllr Waller and seconded by Cllr Moore that:

“Council notes the concern of local businesses about the recent revaluation of business rates and the confusion that the complex system has caused at a time when businesses are still struggling with the effects of the recession.

Council believes that short term measures can be taken to help local businesses take advantage of an economic recovery, including making Small Business Rate Relief automatic and rebalancing the burden on small independent shops.

In the long term Council believes that fundamental reform of business rates is necessary to introduce a fairer system where rates are based on site values rather than rental values, encouraging businesses to invest in their premises rather than penalising them.

Council also believes that allowing Council to retain a proportion of the business rates collected in the area would help to promote local initiatives which would stimulate the local economy.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to the Business Secretary and Shadow Business Secretaries expressing the concerns of Council and calling for reform of business rates to be a priority for the incoming Government.”

Prior to the debate on the above motion, Cllr Scott moved, and Cllr Pierce seconded, that the motion be referred to the Executive under Standing Order 12.(b) for consideration of an Officer report, on the grounds that this was a technical issue requiring specialist advice. On being put to the vote, this proposal was declared LOST.

Cllr Scott then moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, that Standing Order 15.3.1 be suspended to enable an amendment to be moved from

the floor. On being put to the vote, this proposal was declared CARRIED.

Cllr Scott then moved, and Cllr Gillies seconded, the following amendment to the motion:

“In paragraph 3, delete all after the words *‘fairer system’*.”

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

**The motion, as amended, now read as follows:**

*“Council notes the concern of local businesses about the recent revaluation of business rates and the confusion that the complex system has caused at a time when businesses are still struggling with the effects of the recession.*

*Council believes that short term measures can be taken to help local businesses take advantage of an economic recovery, including making Small Business Rate Relief automatic and rebalancing the burden on small independent shops.*

*In the long term Council believes that fundamental reform of business rates is necessary to introduce a fairer system.*

*Council also believes that allowing Council to retain a proportion of the business rates collected in the area would help to promote local initiatives which would stimulate the local economy.*

*Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to the Business Secretary and Shadow Business Secretaries expressing the concerns of Council and calling for reform of business rates to be a priority for the incoming Government.”<sup>1</sup>*

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.<sup>1</sup>

*\*Note: Cllrs Healey, Morley and R Watson left the Chamber during consideration of the above motion, in accordance with their declarations of a prejudicial interest in the matter, and took no part in the debate or decision thereon.*

(ii) Children’s Centres

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

“Council welcomes the imminent opening of the City’s ninth Children’s Centre at Knavesmire Primary School.

Council recognises the positive impact that Children's Centres have made on the lives of children and families in the City of York since 2006.

Council is appalled that David Cameron's Conservative Party has publicly stated that it would cut £200m, a 19.5% cut in funding forcing one in five Children's Centres to close. It is also proposed to restrict the Department for Children, Schools and Families budget to a 1% increase for 2010/11, representing a £300m cut in real terms.

The proposed cut would translate to the closure of 569 centres nationally and two in York.

Council requests the Chief Executive to write to:

- 1) David Cameron MP, expressing its total opposition to the proposals outlined in Conservative Party Policy, highlighting the damage to York communities and families.
- 2) Candidates of the main political parties for York Central and York Outer, asking them to oppose any proposed cuts and asking for their support for the continued funding to enable all Children's Centres to remain open and offer the same range of facilities and service as currently provided."

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

"Delete all from '*Council is appalled*' in the third paragraph to the end of '*York Communities and families*' in the final paragraph. In the final paragraph, insert the words *Council requests the Chief Executive to write to*' before the word '*candidates*' and insert the words '*in the Sure Start budget*' after the words '*proposed cuts*'."

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

**The motion, as amended, now read as follows:**

*"Council welcomes the imminent opening of the City's ninth Children's Centre at Knavesmire Primary School.*

*Council recognises the positive impact that Children's Centres have made on the lives of children and families in the City of York since 2006.*

*Council requests the Chief Executive to write to candidates of the main political parties for York Central and York Outer, asking them to oppose any proposed cuts in the Sure Start budget and asking for their support for the continued funding to enable all Children's Centres to remain open and offer the same range of facilities and service as currently provided."*<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

(iii) Congestion Charging

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

“This Council pledges that it will not pursue congestion charging in York for the duration of the current administration.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(iv) Police Community Support Officers

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

“Council welcomes:

- The presence of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on York’s streets since they were introduced as a result of the Police Reform Act 2002;
- The continual improvement in reducing crime in York and North Yorkshire as a result of the national Neighbourhood Policing strategy, of which PCSOs are a key part;
- The role of PCSOs in reducing levels of crime and increasing public confidence;
- The improved responsiveness of the Police at the local level since PCSOs were established.

Council is therefore appalled at Conservative proposals to abolish PCSOs. It believes this would be a retrograde step and demonstrates a party that is soft on crime.

Council asks the Chief Executive to write to Conservative Leader David Cameron, expressing Council’s deep-seated concerns about the implications of implementing such a policy and urging him to reconsider his party’s stance on the issue.

Council also requests the Chief Executive to write to each of the Parliamentary candidates for York Central and York Outer, expressing the same view.”

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

“Replace the second paragraph, beginning ‘*Council is therefore appalled*’, with:

*'Council is concerned at Conservative proposals to remove the ring fencing of funding for PCSOs and is concerned that such a move could result in a reduction in the number of PCSOs in York.'*

In the third paragraph, delete the words 'deep seated'."

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

**The motion, as amended, now read as follows:**

*"Council welcomes:*

- *The presence of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on York's streets since they were introduced as a result of the Police Reform Act 2002;*
- *The continual improvement in reducing crime in York and North Yorkshire as a result of the national Neighbourhood Policing strategy, of which PCSOs are a key part;*
- *The role of PCSOs in reducing levels of crime and increasing public confidence;*
- *The improved responsiveness of the Police at the local level since PCSOs were established.*

*Council is concerned at Conservative proposals to remove the ring fencing of funding for PCSOs and is concerned that such a move could result in a reduction in the number of PCSOs in York.*

*Council asks the Chief Executive to write to Conservative Leader David Cameron, expressing Council's concerns about the implications of implementing such a policy and urging him to reconsider his party's stance on the issue.*<sup>3</sup>

*Council also requests the Chief Executive to write to each of the Parliamentary candidates for York Central and York Outer, expressing the same view.*"<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>3-4</sup>

**\*(v) Life-Long Learning**

A notice of motion had been submitted by Cllr Runciman in the following terms:

*"Council holds the view that excellence in education for all can best be achieved by promoting life long learning and that this should continue to be one of the top priorities for government.*

Council recognises that promoting such opportunities has long been the work of those who work in Adult and Continuing Education and

knows that their distinctive approach has enable many who come back into the education system later in life to achieve their potential.

Council deplores the steady undermining of life long learning opportunities by this Government, demonstrated by the recent announcement that almost all funding for part time courses, particularly in Further Education Colleges, will be cut. This will reduce access to both part time vocational and non-vocational courses, which are often the way that mature learners return to learning, as well as providing emotional and social support to those who are or have been isolated members of society.

Council resolves to express as strongly as possible to the Department for Children, Schools and Families its opposition to this cut and to make representations that it should be reversed.

Council also requests Officers to prepare a report to the Executive setting out the likely effects of these cuts on the City's economy."

Cllr Runciman now sought leave to alter the above motion to read as follows:

"Council holds the view that excellence in education for all can best be achieved by promoting life long learning and that this should continue to be one of the top priorities for government.

Council recognises that promoting such opportunities has long been the work of those who work in Adult and Continuing Education and knows that their distinctive approach has enable many who come back into the education system later in life to achieve their potential.

Council deplores the steady undermining of life long learning opportunities by this Government, demonstrated by the recent announcement that almost all funding for part time courses, particularly in Further Education Colleges, will be cut. This will reduce access to both part time vocational and non-vocational courses, which are often the way that mature learners return to learning, as well as providing emotional and social support to those who are or have been isolated members of society.

Council resolves to express as strongly as possible to the **Department for Business, Innovation and Skills** its opposition to this cut and to make representations that it should be reversed.<sup>5</sup>

Council also requests Officers to prepare a report to the Executive setting out the likely effects of these cuts on the City's economy."<sup>6</sup>

Council having agreed to that alteration, Cllr Runciman moved, and Cllr seconded, the motion as altered.

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



RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.<sup>5-6</sup>

*\* Note: Cllrs Brooks and Hyman left the Chamber during consideration of the above motion, in accordance with their declarations of a prejudicial interest in the matter, and took no part in the debate or decisions thereon.*

Action Required

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Write to Business Secretary & Shadow Business Secretaries in the terms agreed            | KE |
| 2. Write to candidates for York Central & York Outer in the terms agreed                    | KE |
| 3. Write to David Cameron MP expressing concerns  | KE |
| 4. Write to Parliamentary candidates for York Central & York Outer expressing concerns      | KE |
| 5. Write to Department for Business, Innovation & Skills in the terms agreed                | PD |
| 6. Schedule a report on Executive Forward Plan re effects of the cuts on the City's economy | BW |

**103. CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATE**

Prior to this item being called, Cllr Scott sought the Lord Mayor's ruling on a procedural point. He contended that the item should not have been included on the Council agenda and should instead have been referred to the Audit & Governance Committee, under Article 16 of the Council's Constitution. The Lord Mayor ruled that the item had been properly included on the agenda, as there was no bar to its inclusion under Standing Orders. He indicated that his ruling on the matter was final, in accordance with Standing Order 22.

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the recommendations contained in the report of the Interim Head of Legal, Civic and Democratic at pages 71-98 of the Council papers, concerning changes to Officer delegations arising from the recent re-organisation of the Council's Directorates and minor changes to Standing Orders.

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations contained in the report of the Interim Head of Legal, Civic and Democratic Services be approved.<sup>1</sup>

Action Required

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Make the changes to the Constitution and re-issue the amended sections | DS |
|---|----|

**104. QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.3(A). AS**

Twenty-two questions had been submitted to Executive Members under Standing Order 11.3(a). The questions were put and answered as follows:

- (i) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:  
“Will the Executive Member detail the start date and the works to be undertaken to the dangerous No. 4 Station bus stop and cycle lane?”

**The Executive Member replied:**

*“Following the Executive decision on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010, officers will be contacting East Coast and Network Rail in the near future to set up a meeting to explore the short term options for improvement.*

*Until these issues have been fully considered it would be wrong to specify a date, but I expect that we should be making some improvements during the summer.”*

- (ii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Gillies:  
“Does the Executive Member have any indication whether the £22.9 million provisionally agreed by the Government to be put towards York’s Park & Ride schemes will be secured before the General Election?”

**The Executive Member replied:**

*“The Park & Ride sites, included in the Access York Phase 1 scheme, were awarded Programme Entry on Monday 22 March 2010.*

*The sum of £22.9 million is therefore available from the Government (Department for Transport) subject to satisfying the anticipated requirements, including the achievement of Final Approval once the construction tender prices are known.”*

- (iii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Merrett:  
“Would the Executive Member indicate the cost, including staff time, of developing the area action plan for York Northwest to date, and the separate costs of preparing the preceding development briefs for the York Central site?”

**The Executive Member replied:**

*“Cllr Merrett will be aware that we do not have a staff time allocation system which allows us to identify precisely how administrative time has been divided between the many different – often concurrent – tasks that are involved in building a Local Development Framework. Any staff time related figures are, therefore, estimates.*

*Between 2002/3 and 2004/5 there were direct costs of £28,656 (consultants and consultation) and staff costs of about £62,300 for work on the York Central Planning Brief.*

*In 2005/6 there were direct costs of £50,653 (transport work and stadium study) and staff costs of about £21,900 on the York Central Planning Framework.*

*Between 2006/7 and 2009/10 there were direct costs off £222,674 (consultants work on transport, open space, ecology, landscape and*

also on consultation) and staff costs of about £235,700 on the Area Action Plan.

All of the work on the Area Action Plan will feed into the approach we are now taking for York Central through the Core Strategy and Supplementary Planning Documents for each site. The work is needed to underpin this new approach and if we hadn't done this work we would need to do it now.

The costs associated with an Area Action Plan are greater than the Planning Brief – much of this is due to the changed nature of the planning system. We now have to have a robust evidence base and demonstrate deliverability./ So much more upfront work is required.”

At this point in the meeting, the guillotine fell and Members agreed to accept written answers to the remaining questions, as set out below.

- (iv) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Healey:  
“Can the Executive Member tell Council when it can expect the Water End review to be published?”

**Reply**

“There is a report (Water End- End of Year report) scheduled to go to Decision Session, Executive Member for City Strategy on 1st June 2010.”

- (v) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Firth:  
“Can the Executive Member give an update on the progress made in achieving funding for the new Park & Ride sites in the City?”

**Reply**

“The Park & Ride sites, included in the Access York Phase 1 scheme, were awarded Programme Entry on Monday 22 March 2010. The sum of £22.9 million is therefore available from the Government (Department for Transport) subject to satisfying the anticipated requirements, including the achievement of Final Approval once the construction tender prices are known.”

- (vi) To the Executive Member for Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:  
“Can the Executive Member inform Council of how many families, adults with one or more children under 8 years old, are living in first and second floor accommodation in the City's boundaries as of the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010?”

**Reply**

“As a result of the policies of successive governments, first depleting our council house stock and then using the revenue from the remaining stock as a source for government stealth tax rather than reinvestment in replacing lost council houses, there is a shortage of family council housing in York. Attempts to free up suitable accommodation by encouraging down sizing was referred to my reply to a question from Councillor Alexander on the 4<sup>th</sup> February. There are currently (as at 7<sup>th</sup>

*April 2010) 147 households with a child or children under the age of 8 years living in CYC properties with 1 or less (bed-sits) bedrooms.*

*The Council does not keep this information in relation to the private sector or other housing providers."*

- (vii) To the Executive Member for Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:  
"Can the Executive Member inform Council of how many families, adults with one or more children under 4 years old, are living in first and second floor accommodation in the City's boundaries as of the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010?"

**Reply**

*"Councillor Simpson-Laing will be aware that demand for ground floor accommodation comes not only from families with young children but those with age-related or medical requirements. As at 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010 there were 174 households with one or more children under 4 years old living in properties above ground floor*

*The Council does not have and is not required to keep such records for other sectors of the housing market."*

- (viii) To the Executive Member for Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Scott:  
"Has the Executive Member concluded any agreement with the PCT to replace the Respite Care that will be removed by your party's budget for 2010/11?"

**Reply**

*"Officers have written to the PCT about this issue and are awaiting a response."*

- (ix) To the Executive Member for Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Sue Galloway:  
"Can the Executive Member give a summary of the outcomes of the recent Annual Housing Satisfaction Survey?"

**Reply**

*"The annual Housing Satisfaction Survey by City of York Council shows significant improvement in tenant satisfaction across the city. According to the survey, which was sent out to 2000 tenants around the city, considerable improvements have been in a wide range of areas with many of the report's key customer satisfaction indicators in the top quartile for performance.*

*Tenant satisfaction has increased in terms of overall service from 85% to 89%, exceeding the 08/09 set target of 88%. Satisfaction with repairs and maintenance provision has seen a rise from 83% to 87%. Those areas also seeing a rise in satisfaction are value for money (81% to 85%), general condition of property (82% to 85%) and the views of the tenant being taken into account (68% to 72%).*

*Tenant satisfaction with opportunities to participate in management has increased. This can be linked to the percentage increase from 74% to 80% of tenants agreeing that the City of York is a good landlord.”*

- (x) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Watt:  
“Can the Executive Member tell Council what the average business rate rise will be for businesses in York for the period 1 April to 31 March 2011?”

**Reply**

*“There isn’t an easy way to determine this, as National Non-Domestic Rate liabilities change throughout the year. Successful appeals against rateable values have an impact on the amount due. Transitional relief and the Retail Price Index further complicate any calculations. In the five months prior to the current financial year there were 624 revaluations advised, ranging from a reduction of 93.74% to an increase of 1,496.64%.*

*However, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010, the net billing debit was £85,658,955.87 and as of 1st April this sum rose to £87,549,982.50 – a rise of 2.2%, though this gross indication can hide a multitude of grief. The overall increase in rateable values is 20.1%, up from £202,718,617 in 2005 to £243,539,409 now.”*

- (xi) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Healey:  
“Do the auditors have a view on City of York Council’s medium-term financial strategy?”

**Reply**

*“The auditors have signed off the strategy in the last Annual Accounts without any adverse comment, so I assume that they have no concerns.”*

- (xii) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Healey:  
“Has the Executive Member or any Officers received, either formally or informally, any guidance from HM Government regarding future grant settlements?”

**Reply**

*“To the best of my knowledge we have not received anything formally pending the outcome of the general election. Various statements have been made about how Gershon type reductions would be assumed in future funding decisions (the implication that we would have to find efficiency savings next year as the grant would be reduced on this assumption), groups such as the Local Government Association and those representing districts, counties and unitaries, etc., have expressed concern that grant levels could alter from small increases through a cash-frozen situation to reductions of up to 10% per annum. The Total Place report also may change funding allocations between different types of authorities. The first budget statement of the new Parliament will clarify the position and an updated financial forecast will be prepared based on this.”*

- (xiii) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Healey:  
“Can the Executive Member give Council the benefit of his opinion as to how prudent it is to assume a 0% increase in City of York Council’s grant settlement from 2011?”

**Reply**

*“The first budget statement of the new Parliament will clarify the position and an updated financial forecast will be prepared based on this.”*

- (xiv) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Healey:  
“Could the Executive Member update Council on City of York Council’s current level of reserves, on whether this amount is more or less than the minimum recommended level as defined by the auditors and, should the reserve levels fall below this minimum recommended level, explain the reasons why?”

**Reply**

*“Until the final figures are available for the financial year just ended the figures for projected levels of reserves are as stated in the 2010/11 budget report. The auditors have no powers to determine what the minimum level of reserves should be, they can only comment on whether or not they think our reserves are adequate for current and potential future needs/risks. The Director of Customer and Business Support Services set out in the budget report to the Executive what a prudent level should include. The projections for 2009/10 are that the reserves will be more than the minimum level thus calculated. The out-turn for 2009/10 and the medium term financial strategy reports will keep Members apprised of the position on reserves.”*

- (xv) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Brian Watson:  
“Will the Executive Member outline what alternatives to demolition were investigated and considered before the decision to demolish the Peaseholme Centre at Peaseholme Green were made?”

**Reply**

*“This issue is not within my remit, as I believe the matter was dealt with by Property Services and/or Housing. I will undertake to provide a written response to the question, as I will need to ascertain details of which I’m not currently aware.”*

- (xvi) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Gillies:  
“Can the Executive Member tell Council when the temporary tarmac repairs on Lendal Bridge will be replaced, and will they be replaced with Yorkshire flagstone?”

**Reply**

*“The tarmac will be replaced by York stone paving and is in the programme of works for 2010/11. The work will need a road closure*

*and is currently scheduled to start on 5th May 2010 and should take 6 nights.”*

- (xvii) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Crisp:

“What are the Executive Member’s plans to improve and promote Social Inclusion in the City, particularly in relation to BME residents?”

**Reply**

*“As outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy, social inclusion is central to everything the LSP Executive board and the LSP partnerships do. In the context of Inclusive York, council officers are currently working with LSP partners to develop a comprehensive plan that will outline in detail actions to maintain and develop further social inclusion in the city. The plan will include actions that relate to BME residents as well as to other Black and Minority Ethnic groups in the city such as migrant workers, students etc. Following a period of extensive consultation that will include City of York Council, the plan is scheduled to be launched at the LSP annual conference at the end of September 2010.”*

- (xviii) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Crisp:

“Could the Executive Member outline how he hopes to maintain and improve access to the Guildhall in relation to DDA requirements, so that all meeting rooms, including the Council Chamber, are accessible without prior notice?”

**Reply**

*“The last consultants’ report demonstrated that:*

*‘Circulation within the chamber and gallery is restricted. The only space likely to be large enough for wheelchair users are the areas between the main chamber and the public gallery and therefore we recommend a management policy be put in place to ensure that these spaces are available. The fixed nature of the majority of the furniture restricts access for people with disabilities, however with careful management, free standing seats could be used to accommodate councillors and members of the public who can’t negotiate the closely located seats. Assistance to reach seating should also be provided. We recommend that a hearing enhancement system be provided complete with signage to identify its presence.’*

*I will be working with council officers to see how this can be achieved.”*

- (xix) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Crisp:

“Can the Executive Member inform Council what progress has been made concerning discussions with York Museums Trust over the possible location of the winter ice rink being in the Museum Gardens?”

**Reply**

*“We need to remember that the need for a new location for the ice rink arises because, despite the entirely successful operation of the rink at*

*the Eye of York, the Crown Court threatened legal action if the rink were to return next year. The ice rink is a commercial operation and the Council is working with the operator to enable them to consider all options that could be commercially viable for the rink. The Museum Gardens is one site that has been considered. It was clear from the outset, however, that there are a number of practical difficulties about the gardens and at this point those difficulties remain. Discussion will therefore continue with the operator about other sites."*

- (xx) To the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services, from Cllr Aspden:

"Can the Executive Member give an update on the outcome of the recent Local Government Chronicle Awards, at which York's Children's Services were nominated for an award?"

**Reply**

*"I am delighted to tell the council that Children and Young People's Services in York received a Highly Commended Award from the Local Government Chronicle for Integrated Working with Children with Disabilities. This was the highest award for any council outside London and confirms our commitment to working with those who are most disadvantaged as well as strong partnership working between all the professionals involved. I would like to put on record my thanks to Jess Haslam and her team who provide such an outstanding service to young people with disabilities and their families here in York."*

- (xxi) To the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services, from Cllr Orrell:

"Can the Executive Member provide an update on the opening of the new school building for Joseph Rowntree School?"

**Reply**

*"The opening of the new Joseph Rowntree School was a very special event in the life of the city and for the young people of the area in particular. The new school has many outstanding features and provides a 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environment with facilities for all types of learning, including a hair and beauty training salon, which is run in conjunction with York College. Present students were delighted to be in their new school and both students and staff are making good use of all the new facilities. A formal opening event is being planned for May."*

- (xxii) To the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services, from Cllr Hyman:

"Can the Executive Member explain how the new Joseph Rowntree building will be made available for community use?"

**Reply**

*"I am pleased to report to council that the community use of the facilities at the new Joseph Rowntree School commenced as soon as the school was open. Indeed, on the second day of opening, I and my ward colleagues saw community groups using the sports hall and were*



*able to discuss the opportunities provided by this new facility with members of the local area that were using them at the time.*

*The school has had two Saturday mornings when it has been open for people who may wish to use the facilities to view them, and quite a few potential customers have been taken round the school. A booklet has also been issued, detailing the facilities.*

*The sports facilities and the activity studio are almost fully booked, and there could be several adult education classes running, including drama, dance, music, fine art and DT. Details of these are yet to be finalised.*

*Facilities at the new school are excellent and it is good to know that there is so much interest from the community in using them fully.”*

Cllr John Galvin

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

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

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## **Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies**

### **Committees/Working Groups**

#### **School Admission Appeals Panellists**

To appoint the following Independent Panellists to hear School Admission Appeals:

Aileen Bloomer  
Peter Canning  
Claire Dorer  
Jill Errington  
Shauna Finch  
David Foster  
Pat Hill  
Edward Kendall  
Emma Langton  
Michael Lewis  
Laurie MacLeod  
John McCullough  
Reg Parr  
Anne Powell  
Ian Savage  
Rob Stay  
Anthony Temperton  
Barry Thomas  
Jackie Thompson  
Susan Townsend  
Michael Waudby

### **Outside Bodies**

#### **York NHS Foundation Trust**

To appoint the following as the Council's representatives on the Council of Governors of the Trust:

Cllr Kirk (LD)  
Cllr Fraser (Lab)

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**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL**

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 27th May, 2010, starting at 2.00 pm

**Present:** The Lord Mayor, Councillor John Galvin, in the Chair during the first part of the meeting; the Lord Mayor, Councillor Susan Galloway, in the Chair during the second part of the meeting, and the following Councillors:

**ACOMB WARD**

Horton  
Simpson-Laing

**BISHOPTHORPE WARD**

Galvin

**CLIFTON WARD**

Douglas  
King

**DERWENT WARD**

Brooks

**DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD**

Holvey  
Reid  
Sunderland

**FISHERGATE WARD**

D'Agorne  
Taylor

**FULFORD WARD**

Aspden

**GUILDHALL WARD**

Looker  
B Watson

**HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD**

Firth  
R Watson

**HESLINGTON WARD**

Jamieson-Ball

**HEWORTH WARD**

Boyce  
Funnell  
Potter

**HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD**

Ayre

**HOLGATE WARD**

Alexander  
Bowgett  
Crisp

**HULL ROAD WARD**

Cregan  
Pierce

**HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK****MICKLEGATE WARD**

WARD

Hyman  
Orrell  
Runciman

Fraser  
Gunnell  
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Morley

Gillies  
Healey  
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON  
WITHOUT WARD

STRENSALL WARD

Moore  
Watt  
Waudby

Kirk

WESTFIELD WARD

WHELDRAKE WARD

Steve Galloway  
Sue Galloway  
Waller

**Also in attendance:** Honorary Aldermen B. Bell, Mrs. M. Bwyne, C. Waite and K. Wood

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hogg, Scott and Vassie

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. Members were invited to declare at this point any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared.

### **APPOINTMENT OF LORD MAYOR**

2. Councillor Ann Reid moved, Councillor Ian Gillies seconded and the Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Susan Galloway, of 6 Stirrup Close, Foxwood Lane, York YO24 3LU, be elected Lord Mayor of the City of York for the ensuing municipal year.

### **QUALIFICATION OF LORD MAYOR**

3. Councillor Susan Galloway signified Acceptance of the Office of Lord Mayor of the City of York, subscribed the Declaration of such acceptance and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by law in that behalf.

### **APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFF**

4. Councillor Carol Runciman moved, Councillor Roger Pierce seconded and the Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Richard Watson, of Sharpitor, 79 York Road, Haxby, York YO32 3EF, be appointed Sheriff of the City of York for the ensuing municipal year.

### **QUALIFICATION OF SHERIFF**

5. Councillor Richard Watson made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Sheriff for the City of York and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by law in that behalf.

### **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR**

6. The Lord Mayor moved, Councillor Paul Healey seconded and the Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor John Galvin, of 8 Bridge Road, Bishopthorpe, York YO23 2RR, be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

**QUALIFICATION OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR**

7. Councillor John Galvin made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Lord Mayor for the City of York and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by law.

**LORD MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

8. The Lord Mayor advised Council that she had appointed the Reverend Andrew Horsman to serve as her Chaplain during her year of office.

**SHERIFF'S CHAPLAIN AND UNDER-SHERIFF**

9. The Sheriff advised Council that he had appointed the Reverend Steve Jarratt to serve as his Chaplain and Mr Andrew Faulkes to serve as his Under-Sheriff during his year of office.

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING LORD MAYOR AND LADY MAYORESS**

10. Councillor Sian Wiseman moved, Councillor Roger Pierce seconded and Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for their services to the City during the past municipal year.

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING SHERIFF AND SHERIFF'S CONSORT**

11. Councillor Ben Hudson moved, Councillor Keith Hyman seconded and Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Sheriff and Sheriff's Consort for their services to the City during the past municipal year.



**FORMAL BUSINESS OF COUNCIL - ALLOCATION TO SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE, COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES 2010/2011**

12. Cllr Waller moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the recommendation in the report at Item 5 on the Council agenda, authorising the Monitoring Officer, under Article 16 of the Constitution, to make the necessary changes to effect the proposed alterations to the Executive Member portfolio areas set out in paragraph 4 and Annex A to that report.

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

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the remaining recommendation in the report at agenda item 5, relating to the allocation of seats, appointments to the Executive, Committees and other bodies, as set out in Annexes A, B and C to the report and in the list of amendments tabled at the meeting.

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

RESOLVED: (i) That the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive, be authorised to make the necessary drafting changes to the Executive Member Delegation Scheme within the Constitution to effect the proposed changes to Executive Member portfolios referred to in paragraph 4 of the report.

(ii) That the proportionality arrangements for allocation to seats, together with the proposals to form an Executive, appoint an Executive Leader and approve appropriate nominations to Committees and other bodies, as set out in Annexes A, B and C to the report and the list of amendments circulated at the meeting, be approved.\*

\* *Note: the list of amendments has been published with the agenda for this meeting as Annex D to agenda item 5.*

S Galloway  
LORD MAYOR OF YORK  
*[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.10 pm]*

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**Leader's report to Full Council 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010****1. Headquarters Update**

The new Headquarters proposals from York Investors LLP received planning permission on 24<sup>th</sup> June and this marked the continued progress of the project. There will need to be consideration by the Secretary of State for Listed Building Consent which should be dealt within a month. The business case for developing versus the 'stay as we are options' remains favourable and demonstrates an aspiration with More for York to save the council tax payers money. It will also deliver a very sustainable building in an historic setting.



The timetable remains as;

- Planning approval: **June / July 2010**
- Contractor appointment: **September 2010**
- Start on site: **December 2010**
- Building Completion: **September 2012**

**2. Sports Village Pool**

In my last report I said that that expected to be able to report to council on a way forward in the summer, and I am pleased to record my thanks to the University of York team, and City of York Council officers that proposals have been brought forward which make possible the delivery of the publicly accessible pool. I am grateful to those officers and councillors who have assisted the progress to this point. This proposal represents good value for money from council tax payers.



Working with the University of York we have the opportunity for achieving a competition standard pool in the city. On the left is the artists impression of the proposed building.

### **3. Barbican**

Following the procurement process which has seen considerable interest in the Barbican detailed proposals for uses of the site were received in June. These two options will be considered over the summer before a recommendation is made to the Executive in September. Each bid will be assessed against criteria which will look at the financial aspects, business case, and the quality of the plans, and the range of conference/entertainment provided.

### **4. New School Meals Contract**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> April the Executive approved the awarding of the School Meals catering contract to ISS Facilities which saw a wide range of factors included in the decisions leading to final judgment including staff training, food safety systems, menu selection, nutritional analysis, customer care and Best Value initiatives. The winning company has a commitment to Marine Stewardship fish, Fair Trade ingredients, and local sourcing of food.

### **5. More for York : Children's Social Care and Finance**

The Executive received an update report on 11<sup>th</sup> May on the progress that has been made with the More for York programme.

In the heavily regulated and rigorously inspected area of children's social care, any changes must be carefully prepared and handled with sensitivity. This blueprint seeks to achieve such changes, having considered the advantages and risks in each area of work. The delivery of children's social care is a changing area and – in some areas – for example that of the increased use and recruitment of foster carers – City of York Council is ahead of the game. Like other Local Authorities numbers of Looked After Children have been increasing. To mitigate this increase, there is a need for a continued focus on early intervention for those children who may be at risk to ensure that reducing numbers of children come into local authority care. There is also the need to continue to cater for those who are looked after who may wish to stay with their foster families after 18, perhaps whilst going on to further and higher education.

The establishment of a 'single front door' is important in ensuring that children and families who need services can access them quickly and easily and a conference will be held to launch this approach next month. Flexible and adaptable services are needed, both from the LA as well as its multi-agency partners, delivering an integrated approach.

The Blueprint for Financial management is targeted to deliver an annual efficiency saving of £170,000 whilst also producing performance improvements. The council will benefit from a more corporate assessment of financial management so that costs are examined right across the authority.

The Executive believe that changes need to be made without compromising quality and the blueprints set out seeks to achieve this whilst contributing to the council's efficiency savings and service improvements.

## **6. High Speed Rail**

The Executive did consider a report on a review of the proposals for a High Speed Rail link. This may remain a long term ambition, which in the current economic climate will extend even further into the future. However, there still remains a need for York to see improvements to the 'classic East Coast' line, and improvements to the Transpennine line extending to York to benefit the city's transport links. I shall be pressing for both of these key transport policies.

## **7. Footstreets Review**

Like some unusual planetary alignment there is interplay between the LTP3, Local Development Framework, City Centre Area Action Plan, and the Renaissance review. The consequences of this will impact on the speed of progress on changes to the pedestrian areas of the city centre and the council has already a major commitment to Deangate as part of the Minster Revealed project. Support was given by the Executive to the request from local traders for the part pedestrianisation of Fossgate, and to the removal of 'street clutter' or unnecessary signage in the pedestrian area which does not enhance the appearance of the city centre core.

A trial will be made of a cycle route through the city centre which will improve connectivity for cyclists whilst taking into account concerns from the more vulnerable members of the community.

## **8. York Mystery Plays 2012**

The history of the mystery plays in York stretches back as far as 1300. In 2004 the future of the mystery plays in York was agreed on a rolling two year cycle. The York Guild's mystery plays on wagons have been produced every four years with the highly successful production in 2006 which will continue to be supported by the council this year. In 2008 the council and partners delivered the York Youth Mysteries.

2012 presents a real cultural opportunity for the City. The figure head Olympics will be backed by a commitment to deliver a cultural olympiad which runs along side the Queen's diamond jubilee celebrations. In York we will be celebrating 800 years since the signing of our city charter.

This report recommends that we take this opportunity to deliver a truly international standard production of the Mystery Plays performed in the Museum Gardens. The ruins of St Mary's Abbey were used for most modern productions between 1951 and 1988 but have not been held there since 1992.

This Mystery Plays have significant financial benefit to the city, with an estimation that the 2000 Minster plays had a value of over £1.6 million to the local economy. Beyond the purely financial and cultural benefit, the tradition of the mystery plays is one of real community production, with a small number of high-profile actors supported by a wider cast of community performers. This will help us draw together performers of all ages and backgrounds to deliver an international event that is still unique to York.

By having a seat at the partnership we can ensure that a number of free places offered through schools for York schoolchildren, as well as a number of discounted

seats for York residents in the interest of accessibility and social inclusion are included in the business planning. I wouldn't like to tie them particularly to our funding as I think we need to allow the partnership to offer, at least the school children's places, as a sponsorship package, as has been the case previously

Executive agreed the reallocation of funding that will be essential in delivering the plays and allowing the partnership to lever in the necessary additional funding to meet the estimated £800k costs of producing this world class event.



I am sure that Members will also be looking out for the Guilds Plays on Wagons this year on 11<sup>th</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> July. Regrettably after having participated in the previous three cycles of productions due to pressure of time I shall not be taking part this year having played Isaiah, St Peter, and an unnamed Apostle.

## 9. World Heritage Site Bid



*World Heritage Status Bid Launch 10<sup>th</sup> June, Mansion House*

The Executive has supported the application for the historic city centre and its underground archeological deposits to be included in a bid for World Heritage Status. An application was made to the Government for the 11<sup>th</sup> June deadline.

## 10. Climate Change Framework and Climate Change Action Plan For York

	<p>On 8<sup>th</sup> June the Executive approved the consultation documents for the Climate Change Framework (2010-2015) and the Climate Change Action Plan (2010-13) which has now been launched publicly. Details are available on the council's website at ;</p> <p><a href="http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/climatechange/2framework/">http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/climatechange/2framework/</a></p>
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The framework identifies ten key areas for focus, creating:

- Sustainable homes
- Sustainable buildings
- Sustainable energy
- Sustainable waste management
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable low carbon economy
- Low carbon lifestyle
- Sustainable planning and land use.
- Sustainable WoW – illustrating the climate change work they are doing as a partnership
- Prepared York – how we start to prepare and adapt our infrastructure, services, homes and businesses for a changing climate.

This is a key project to engage with the public on the Without Walls plans for the whole city to reduce carbon emissions. This will also encourage the creation of more 'Green jobs', reduce heating bills and help to tackle fuel poverty. As part of the Without Walls investment in home insulation the Locality Based Scheme has been operating in Hull Road and Fishergate Wards which were identified as the areas of greatest potential for energy efficiency improvement in the previous Private Sector Stock Analysis. I joined the team for one afternoon's session to see how progress was being made



Works through this particular scheme have been completed in 248 households with more in the pipeline. It is estimated that the loft insulation work (either top-up to 270mm or areas starting from scratch) will save 2,320 tonnes of CO2 (lifetime savings) and another 1100 tonnes from cavity wall insulation. The key installer is a local company Solarwall thus helping to deliver more jobs in the city.

*Home Energy Checks can be completed with the residents to see what work can be achieved through the scheme.*

Help for all residents across the city is still available from the local Energy Saving Trust Office in George Hudson Street (run by Sustainability for Yorkshire – formerly Ryedale Energy Conservation Group) on 0800 052 7496 or via the web at <http://www.sustainability4yorkshire.org.uk/>

At the same meeting the Executive considered the development of a low emission strategy for the city. One of the unintended consequences of a national drive to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles is that some other emissions have not been reduced as quickly as anticipated. Therefore a combined analysis is needed, and in January 2010 York and Leeds successfully bid to become one of three 'Regional Champions' groupings tasked with rolling out low emission measures at a regional level. As 'regional low emission champions', York and Leeds will be expected to roll out low emission measures within their own areas and encourage other local authorities and organisations to do the same.

Officers were asked to bring forward a timetable for the early introduction of a LES in York with details of how the funding arrangements for this would operate.

## **11. Year End Financial and Performance**

That the council has finished the year at a figure under the budgeted outturn is a major achievement given the pressures on the budget from the numbers of children in care, demands from adult social services, and issues relating to the recession which have all required considerable efforts by all departments. The worst winter in 30 years also took its toll in terms of increased levels of expenditure and the aftermath on the city's roads. Therefore I would like to register my thanks to all council staff, and councillors who have worked together to achieve this outcome under pressure, and with many predicting that there was going to be a considerable overspend.

Officers will maintain the level of attention of detail to expenditure both great and small, and to ensure that all line items are challenged. I would like to thank the Chief Executive, the Director of Customer and Business Support Services (Resources) and



the rest of Senior Management Team, and their staff for all the steps that have been taken, with at the heart of the budgetary control there being a determination to ensure that vulnerable residents did not see a reduction in service despite the scare stories from Opposition Councillors. The More for York Programme has changed attitudes within CYC, we will have to become a different council.

Key issues have been to have Directors directly involved in keeping as many support packages within the city as possible.

### Performance

It is clear that much of the bureaucracy surrounding indicators will be removed, this will allow the council to concentrate on those which are of meaning to the public.

- Overall recorded crime in York reduced by 24% in 2009/10
- Pupils achieving 5 or more A\*-C(including English and Maths) improved to 59% - moving York to top quartile
- In terms of inclusion the proportion of pupils living in the most deprived wards in York increased GCSE attainment by 7%
- The number of serious injuries and deaths on York's roads reduced by 38%
- York's unemployment figures are much lower than the national and regional averages.
- Staff Absence figures were 12.2 days per employee in 2002/3 and so the current level of 8.98 days represents a saving of around £2 million not taking into account savings in overtime and temporary staff to cover for absent employees.



*Aim Higher Awards 17<sup>th</sup> June – recognising the drive for greater motivation of young people : Gavin Cowley(Deputy York High School) and Cllr Carol Runciman*



*'Choose to Re-use Fashion Show', York Racecourse 28<sup>th</sup> May – demonstration of fashion from local charity shops, and from local new designers*

- The number of children in care stands at 225 representing a 35% increase since March 2008 which a scrutiny report showed has been part of a national trend following changes in court decisions after the 'Baby P' case.
- The figures for NEETS (young people Not in Education Employment or Training) has not met the target, however, York has the lowest number in the

North of England, and nationally only 14 council areas have lower levels. Steps are being taken by York College to support more apprenticeships.

- The numbers of York households in temporary accommodation continues to reduce despite the national increase in home repossessions. The performance of 79 in 2009/10 was a 67% decrease since 2007/8. York is a regional champion for homelessness.
- York households are throwing away less waste ( waste minimisation is by far the cheapest option and is higher up the Reduce/Reuse/Recycle hierarchy. So the amount of waste thrown away per household has dropped from 663kg in 2007/08 to 614 kg in 2009/10. There was a reduction of 2,400 tonnes in waste sent to landfill.
- Satisfaction levels with cleanliness 70% (compared to 47% in 2002/3)

## **12. Corporate Strategy Update**

Whilst there is a continuing review of the burdens on local councils from central government we need to keep a watching brief on this area, and it is due to come back to Executive on 7<sup>th</sup> September.



*The revitalised York Central Library has become the much brighter York Explore – thanks to a joint investment plan from the council and Avivia. It opened to the public on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and has been very popular with user numbers showing a significant increase already*

The Administration is committed to;

- maintaining high levels of employment,
- good quality schools and training in the city
- providing high quality public buildings (Energise, York Explore)
- helping all residents to reach their full potential and tackling inequality
- working with the Police and Safer York Partnership to reduce crime, and the perception of anti-social behaviour
- improving the sustainability of the city – reducing energy consumption and tackling fuel poverty



*Operation Spoke – Cycling Tagging*



*Promoting City of York Council Apprenticeship Scheme*

Each Executive member has been involved with the Year 2 refresh strategy and will be working to ensure that these deliver a real difference to the lives and opportunities of people who live in the city.

### **13. Council Housing Funding CLG Consultation**

The Executive believes that the funding of national schemes for council housing which sees £6 million of York tenants money leave the city each year as unfair. Therefore the council will give a strong response to the consultation from CLG to make the case that if there has to be debt transfer that it is done in a way which is equitable to York, and ensures that in the long term there are resources that can be utilised to the benefit of York tenants. This could provide much more funding for energy conservation in the city.

### **14. Round up of activities**

The council has been working hard to support families caught up with the problems surrounding the Jarvis closure particularly through Future Prospects, and I have met with managers from Network Rail to push the case for former employees.

The Official opening of Goodricke College took place on 28<sup>th</sup> April with the Duke of York, and marked the latest stage in the development of Heslington East.

The Global Day of Prayer was celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and after venturing up to the city's walls with the Civic Party and Members of Parliament there was a very varied service in the Minster during which support was shown for the work of the council.

The new Visitor Information Centre opened on 27<sup>th</sup> May and has been a fantastic boost to the city. A wider range of services are available, and in a more accessible building than De Grey House. On the day before I was invited by the Dutch Embassy to the launch of their Business Support Office for the North of England, and

arrangements are being made for a visit by the manager in September to meet York companies, and visit the Science Park.

I visited the new CEMEX plant on James Street which has relocated from Leeman Road and heard about the considerable efforts that have been made to recycle materials, and preserve water. They also had on display one of their lorries that has been fitted with extra mirrors and sensors to improve safety with cyclists.

An international conference on moving towards more sustainable forms of transport "Car Free Cities" was held in York between 28<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> July and recognised the work that has been done to reduce dependence on the car in the city.



*Future Prospects at a York College hosted even for Jarvis employees*



*New high quality home in Morrith Close in partnership with Yorkshire Housing (official opening 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010)*

Like many former railway employees in the city who had worked at Main HQ I have been into see the Cedar Court Grand Hotel which has been fitted out to five star standard. It hosted the meeting of the Economic Forum on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

I attended the York College Construction and Engineering Open Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> June at which the council had a stall detailing the apprenticeship opportunities within the council.

The new Joseph Rowntree School won an award at the York Design Awards on 30<sup>th</sup> June held at York St John's University De Grey Court building which had won the previous year. Along with a number of councillors I attended the public opening of the school on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

I would like to thank officers who have worked to promote links with the armed forces. There have been number of parades recently with the Yorkshire Regiment's new colours, and more recently Armed Forces Day held in York on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. These have allowed residents to show their support at these difficult times for the Armed Forces.

Cllr Andrew Waller  
Leader, City of York Council

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MEETING	EXECUTIVE
DATE	6 JULY 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS WALLER (CHAIR), AYRE, STEVE GALLOWAY, MOORE, REID AND RUNCIMAN
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR MORLEY
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLORS CRISP, HEALEY, HUDSON, KING AND PIERCE

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## PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

### 27. COMMUNITY STADIUM BUSINESS CASE

*See also under Part A minutes]*

Members considered a report which presented a summary of the business case for a community stadium. Further information was provided in the annexes to the report, which drew on more detailed feasibility work and studies that had been commissioned.

The report illustrated that there was a cost effective, commercially sustainable business case for the development of a community stadium in York which would meet the project objectives whilst maximising the potential for external funding, income generation and community benefits. However, delivery of the project was entirely dependent upon the ability to close a funding gap of between £4m and £15m, principally by means of enabling development. Options for closing the funding gap, were examined in paragraphs 76 to 105 of the report. Further revenue funding was required to allow the project to progress to the procurement stage. £12k of previous LABGI allocations was available, in addition to the £186k received in 2009/10. Approval was therefore sought to use £198k of LABGI funding to progress the scheme.

As a minimum, the project could deliver a stadium and county standard athletics facilities. There was a strong case for the inclusion of additional components to ensure social and economic benefits. The facilities considered had been determined as either 'essential' or 'desirable' and the following two facility mixes had been established, with the potential to include the additional options of flexible office space, commercial health & fitness and a cycle track:

**Facility Mix A** – 6,000 all-seat stadium, athletics off site

**Facility Mix B** – as above, plus 3G pitches and a budget hotel.

A site selection exercise had identified the following site options for the stadium, as detailed in paragraphs 67 to 74 of the report and in annexes 1-5:

**Site 1** – Bootham Crescent / Dunscombe Barracks

**Site 2** – Hull Road / Heslington East

**Site 3** – Mille Crux / Nestlé North

**Site 4** – Monks Cross

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the use of LAGBI money to the value of £198k to progress the scheme towards the procurement stage, with further costs being reviewed as the project commences, subject to a future report back to the Executive or to full Council.

REASON: To enable the project to progress to the procurement stage.

## **28. YORK SPORTS VILLAGE SWIMMING POOL**

*[See also under Part A Minutes]*

Members considered a report which set out a proposal from the University of York to provide a competition standard swimming facility for the City, to be located adjacent to the Grimston Bar Park & Ride site.

Key deliverables of the Council's current swimming facilities strategy, agreed in October 2007, included a partnership with the University of York to deliver a competition standard swimming pool, with full public access, as part of their 'York Sports Village' development. The requirement for a pool was included in the University's Section 106 agreement in respect of the development but the University was not in a position to complete the facilities within its own resources and there was no required end date for delivery.

The proposal now was for the Council to provide a one-off capital contribution of £3m, in exchange for a 25 year agreement with the University on the terms set out in Annex D to the report. This, added to £5m provided by the University and £1m external grant funding, would enable a pool and fitness facilities to be built to a high specification, with public access as required. The facility would be maintained and run by the University, at no revenue cost to the Council. It was recommended that this proposal be accepted. The alternative would be for the Council to act alone to develop a pool, which would cost upwards of £17m in capital outlay, as well as taking longer and requiring ongoing revenue subsidy.

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve an increase of £1m in the capital programme for the York Sports Village Swimming Pool (from the existing £2m), this to be financed from prudential borrowing, with the consequential revenue implications of £71k being accepted as committed growth for the 2011/12 budget.

REASON: To further the City's swimming strategy and to create excellent facilities for the people of York to use.

A Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.15 pm].

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	25 JUNE 2010
PRESENT	MRS BAINTON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR) COUNCILLORS HORTON (VICE-CHAIR), HUDSON, TAYLOR AND KIRK (SUBSTITUTE) (CYC MEMBERS) MR DIXON AND MR HALL (INDEPENDENT MEMBERS) COUNCILLORS CRAWFORD, MELLORS AND FORSTER (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR WAUDBY (CYC MEMBER) AND MR WILSON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER)
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLOR RUNCIMAN (AS CHAIR OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP)

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## **PART B – MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL**

### **10. ANNUAL MONITOR OF MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Members considered a report which provided information on the take-up at events offered as part of the City of York Council's 2009/2010 core programme of Member Training and Development, together with feedback from those who had attended these events. The Chair of the Member Development Steering Group was in attendance to present the report.

It was reported that:

- 21 non-Executive Members had achieved the minimum target of attending 8 qualifying sessions, 19 of whom had exceeded the target
- 19 non-Executive Members had not achieved the target
- 5 Executive Members had exceeded the target of attending 12 qualifying sessions and 2 Members had achieved the minimum target
- 4 non-Executive Members had not undertaken any qualifying events or activities.

A summary of feedback received was provided in paragraphs 14 to 17 of the report and in Annex A. In addition to the feedback on the sessions themselves, a number of comments had been made in relation to venues, refreshments etc.; these had been taken on board when arranging the 2010/11 programme.

It was further reported at the meeting that a provisional date of 28 September had been selected for the Council to be assessed for Charter status. A successful result would make York one of the first councils to receive the Charter. The Chair of the Steering Group, and Members of the

Standards Committee, extended their thanks to Officers for their work in reaching this stage.

**RECOMMENDED:** That Council consider the Annual Monitor of Member Training and Development.

**REASON:** In order to comply with the monitoring arrangements set out in the Member Development Steering Group's Terms of Reference.

C Bainton, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 4.10 pm].



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Standards Committee

25 June 2011

Report of the Head of Civic Legal and Democratic Services

## **Annual Monitor of Member Training and Development**

### **Summary**

1. In January 2009 Council agreed to introduce a Member Development Policy, giving a commitment to monitor the take-up of development opportunities.
2. The 2009/2010 core programme of Training & Development for members has now come to a close and this report therefore informs members of the take up at events offered together with a summary of feedback received.

### **Background**

3. The Council has put in place effective systems for recording the data it holds in respect of development activities offered to members and the Member Development Steering Group has undertaken to monitor this and report it's findings to the Standards Committee bi-annually. The Steering Group has given this commitment, under the Member Development Policy, approved by Council in December 2009.

### **Monitoring of Take-Up of Training & Development**

4. As part of its commitment to monitoring take-up, in January of 2009 Council introduced an annual minimum requirement relating to the number of development activities Executive/Non Executive members should attend. Council agreed that Executive members should attend a minimum of 12 development sessions and Non-Executive Members a minimum of 8 sessions during the course of a year;

#### **Analysing Take-Up**

5. Take up of development opportunities varies according to the nature of the training. Generally, training events targeted at members of a particular committee, e.g. Scrutiny or Planning attract a higher level of attendees than events which focus on specific skills such as chairing meetings, dealing with the media etc.

6. Qualifying activities which count towards the agreed targets include
  - Any session or activity offered in the core programme
  - Relevant information briefings, presentations etc given by a Directorate or an external body
  - Approved conferences, seminars and external training events
  - Police and Fire Authority Training
  - Independent study which is relevant to the role of and elected member including, e-learning, DVD's CD's etc
  - Pre-Council Briefings
7. Details of Members' attendance levels at qualifying events and activities are held on a central database within Democratic Services and for the year 2009/2010 are summarised as follows:
  - 21 Non-Executive Members achieved the minimum target of 8 qualifying 'sessions' and 19 of those exceeded the target
  - 19 Non-Executive Members did not reach their target
  - 5 Executive Members exceeded the target of 12 qualifying 'sessions' however 2 Executive members did not achieve the minimum target.
  - 4 non Executive Members did not undertake any qualifying events or activities
8. The Member Development Steering Group takes a pro-active role in encouraging Group Members to work towards achieving the agreed targets.
9. This summary report setting out the results of take-up by Members and their performance in meeting the appropriate agreed targets for 2009/10 will be reported to Council at it's meeting in July.
10. Following Council it is the intention to publish the training attendance figures on the Council's web site alongside members allowances and expenses for the same period.
11. By April 2011, Democratic Services will be in a position to measure the success of introducing the targets by comparing the achievement in 2010/11 with those in 2009/2010

### **Evaluating the Core Programme (including in year additions)**

12. In addition to the monitoring of take up at development events another key aspect to measuring the success and effectiveness of the development sessions on offer is measured through feedback received from attendees.

13. Details of feedback received between June 2009 and May 2010 relating to development activities included in the core programme are summarised in Annex A

**[Please note: Annex A is not included for consideration by Council on 15 July 2010, because Council is only required to consider the annual monitor of 'take-up' of training activities]**

### **Summary of Feedback**

14. The session held on Local Government Finance was well received by members who found it enjoyable and aimed at the right level. The Steering Group agreed however not to run the session again until 2011/2012 when it would be offered as part of an induction programme following the elections.
15. The expected Revisions to the Code of Conduct did not materialise, however the Interim Head of Civic Legal and Democratic Services took the decision to run with the session as planned. The training focused instead on common issues raised in relation to the Code. Attendance was much higher than expected though predominantly Parish Councils. Feedback was very positive however delegates suggested that more 'practical examples could be incorporated into the session along with more time for discussion at the end. In response to the feedback and requests for similar training in the future, a further session has been included in the 2010/2011 programme with particular focus on Complaints Hearings and Conduct. The session will be delivered by the new Head of Civic Legal and the rules regarding pre-determination and bias.
16. The Theatre Work-Shop around Member/Officer relationships received the most positive feedback of all events offered to date. Although attendance figures were lower than expected, those who took part thought it an excellent way of engaging members and officers in a very delicate area. There was an equal mix of participation from officers and members with participants enjoying the interactive style and the opportunity to break down some of the barriers between members and officers in an informal setting. Feedback from the session also included suggestions for follow up sessions on Members rights to personal information on behalf of constituents and scale of enquiries (how much work is involved). As a result of feedback a session has been included in the 2010/2011 programme Members – 'Need to Know' which will guide members through the complexities of their working relationships with officers with particular focus on the Member/Officer protocol and members right to information.
17. In addition to feedback on the sessions themselves, a number of comments were also made relating to room temperature, quality of refreshments etc. These comments were taken on board when planning the 2010/2011 programme

### **Options**

18. Members can:

- (i) make recommendations to Council on the level of take-up of development opportunities;
- (ii) make representations to the Member Development Steering Group on the quality and provision of the Core Programme 2009/2010

### **Corporate Priorities**

19. Monitoring take up of development events and evaluating the core programme directly supports the Council's Corporate aim of providing of strong leadership, supporting and developing people and encouraging improvement in everything we do.

### **Implications**

20. There are no known implications associated with the recommendations.

### **Risk Management**

21. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no risks associated with the contents of this report other than if Standards Committee were not to refer this report on to Full Council, thus being in breach of the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group agreed by Full Council

### **Recommendation**

22. Members are asked to comment on the contents of the report and in particular to make any recommendations to Full Council on the take-up of development opportunities offered in 2009/2010.

### **Reason**

23. In order to comply with the monitoring arrangements set out in the Steering Group's Terms of Reference as approved by Council.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

Amanda Oxley  
Senior Member Support Officer

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Andrew Docherty  
Head of Civic Democratic and Legal Services

Dawn Steel  
Democratic Services Manager

**Report Approved**

**Date** 16/06/2010

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** none

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

**Background Papers:**

None.

**Annexes:**

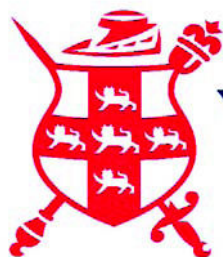
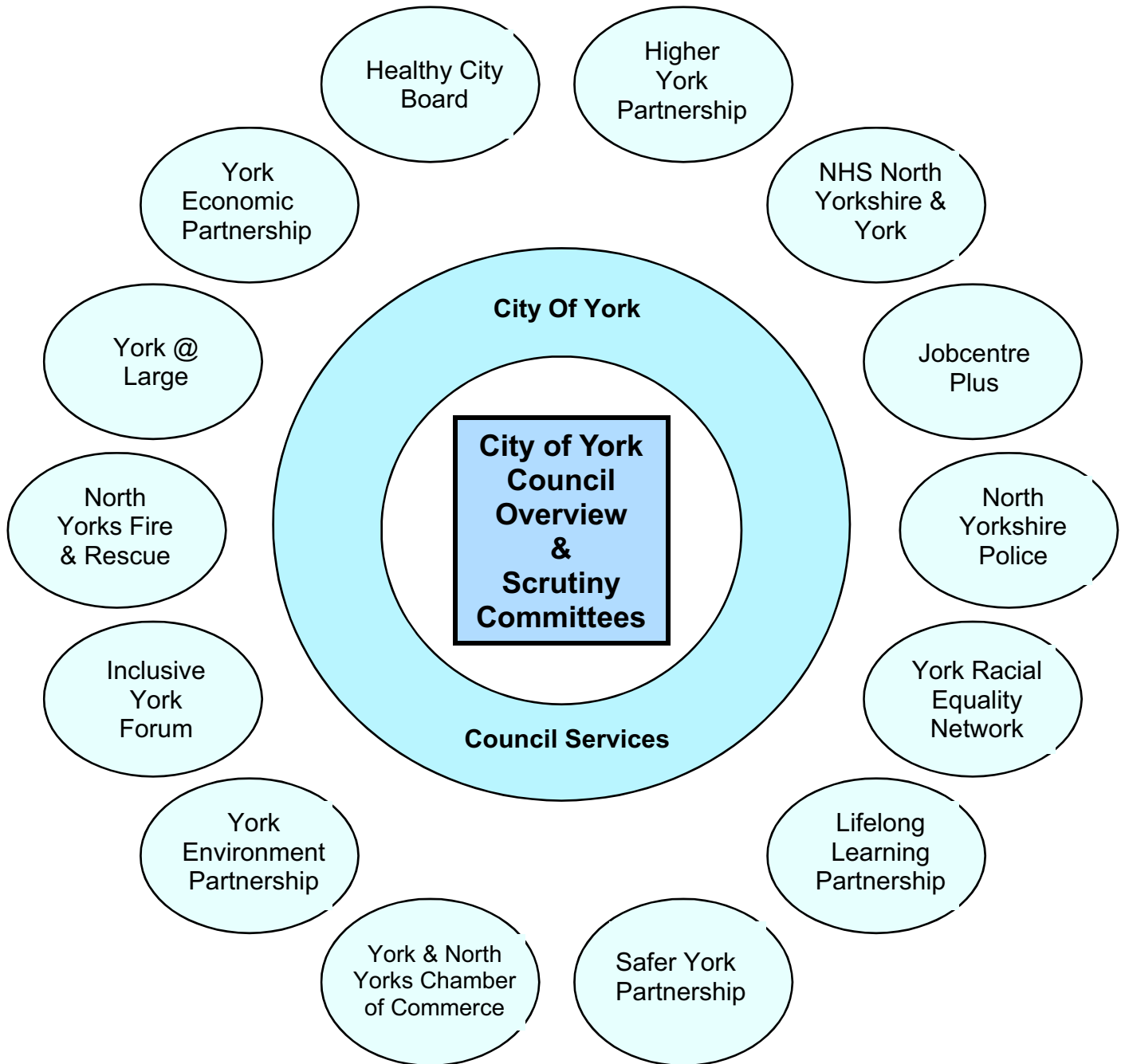
None

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# Scrutiny Annual Report 2009-10

## Scrutinising the work of the Council & its Partners



# Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2009-10

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# Introduction



I am pleased to introduce our new Annual Scrutiny Report, covering the work scrutiny has done during 2009/10. In the last year, we have modernised our Scrutiny Committees to allow us to get more involved with the work of our partners and to look into issues of wider public concern. We have achieved this to some extent but there is much more to be done yet and at the end of this report, we look ahead to what needs to be done in the coming year.

In reading this report you will see that our various Scrutiny Committees have undertaken a number of wide ranging reviews. They have also looked into some specific 'Councillor Calls for Action' (CCfA). This is a new legal provision allowing Councillors to ask Scrutiny Committees to look in more detail at some local community issues which have not, in their opinion, been satisfactorily resolved. In its first year of CCfA in York, our Scrutiny Committees have looked at two such concerns: one relating to junction alterations at Water End and Clifton Green in York; the other relating to a range of maintenance, safety and parking problems at a parade of local shops. In addition, the Scrutiny Management Committee itself has considered a significant number of decisions made by the Councils Executive but 'called-in' by Elected Members under our 'calling in procedures'. In 2009/10, the Committee asked the Executive to rethink its decisions on a number of those referred to it. This process gives scrutiny the power to challenge and question decisions taken by the Executive.

Scrutinising on our own services and decisions and the work of our partners across the city all helps to make sure locally the Council and other key service providers across the city deliver, within available budgets, the best services we can for our communities. We can all help with this by getting involved in scrutiny: local residents can register a scrutiny topic with City of York Council; partner organisations can themselves bring forward issues they would like our Scrutiny Committees to look at; and Elected Members can challenge Executive decisions or call upon scrutiny to investigate specific concerns raised through CCfAs.

Scrutiny is at its best when it works with others - the Executive; partners; residents; community groups and Ward Members - to improve services and practices and drive forward positive, meaningful change.

So, I welcome this Annual Report in the continuing spirit of working together in providing and developing honest, decent and effective services and policies in the future."

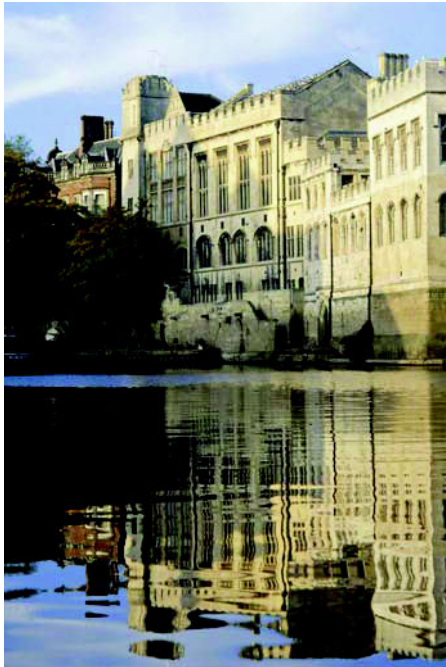
*Councillor Paul Healy  
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee*

# The Role of Overview & Scrutiny

## What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Overview & Scrutiny plays a central role in ensuring that Councils have open and accountable democratic arrangements in place.

The Local Government Act 2000 set out to modernise local government by ending the traditional committee system and replacing it with a system where decisions are taken by a small group of councillors known as Executive Members - similar to the Cabinet in central government.



Councillors who are not members of the Executive are known as non-executive members. They act as 'watchdogs' by examining Executive decisions and the policies and performance of the Council. They look at where they think things could be improved for residents and make recommendations to the Executive - this function is called 'Overview and Scrutiny'.

Overview & Scrutiny is designed to be non-party political - all Overview & Scrutiny Committees must be politically balanced and chaired by a member of one of the opposition parties.

## Overview & Scrutiny Committees in York Scrutiny Management Committee

The Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) is responsible for managing and co-ordinating the overview & scrutiny function. It meets periodically throughout the year to:

- consider proposals for corporate priorities
- receive bi-annual reports from the Scrutiny Committees on progress against their workplans
- consider and comment on any final reports arising from completed reviews produced by the Scrutiny Committees, prior to their submission to the Executive
- advise the Executive on the development of the Sustainable Corporate Strategy and monitor its overall delivery
- provide an annual report to the Council on the work of the overview and scrutiny function
- periodically review the overview and scrutiny procedures to ensure that the function is operating effectively and recommend any constitutional changes, to Council
- Consider and recommend to Council a budget for Scrutiny and then monitor the allocated budget on a regular basis
- Allocate responsibility for issues which fall between more than one of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees
- consider any pre or post Executive or Executive Member decisions, or key decisions delegated to an officer that are 'called-in'

### Call-in

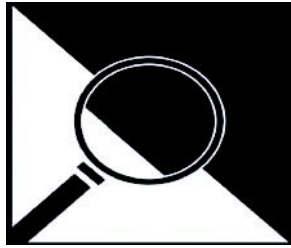
Any three councillors can 'call-in' an Executive Member/ Executive decision or officer 'key' decision either pre- decision or post-decision (no later than 10 am on the day before the decision or up to two working days after the publication of the decision).

Once submitted, a meeting of the Scrutiny Management Committee will be held to consider the call-in.

### Overview & Scrutiny Committees

In addition, there are five Overview & Scrutiny Committees with remits designed around the 'Local Area Agreement' themes:

- Effective Organisation
- Economic & City Development
- Learning & Culture
- Community Safety
- Health



Each committee is supported by a Scrutiny Officer and receives technical advice from senior officers within Council Directorates.

In carrying out their individual remit, each Overview & Scrutiny Committee must ensure their work promotes inclusiveness and sustainability, and the priorities identified in the Council's Corporate Strategy.

### Ways of Working

At the beginning of every municipal year, each Overview & Scrutiny Committee agrees an annual work programme, and throughout the year, they monitor finance and performance within the service areas specific to their individual remits, and carry out scrutiny reviews on agreed topics.

Formal meetings and reports are an important part of the Overview & Scrutiny function, but where appropriate the Overview and Scrutiny Committees will often adopt less formal methods e.g.:

- Carry out site visits
- Attend/observe other group's meetings e.g. Nuisance Action Group, Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations

- Hold informal discussions with residents and/or officers e.g. 2 councillors visiting a resident, or meeting with an officer
- Create a 'Task Group' from its members to discuss a particular issue and report back to the full Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Hold open 'drop in' sessions
- Invite external witnesses to inform and widen the perspective
- Invite experts to give presentations / host seminars

Each committee can choose to 'co-opt' extra members if they have particular expertise (either on a permanent basis or for the duration of a specific scrutiny review), except in the case of the Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee, for which it is statutory to have co-optees representing parents and religious groups.

For each scrutiny review undertaken, the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee monitors the implementation of the recommendations approved by the Executive, until such time as they are fully implemented.



# Getting Involved

Possible topics for scrutiny review can be submitted by members of the public or by a Councillor.

## Topics

It is important to recognise what kind of topics are appropriate for Overview & Scrutiny.

A number of factors need to be considered before a Committee makes their decision to carry out a review. These might include:

- How the issue was brought to the attention of Overview & Scrutiny e.g. through Members surgeries or other constituency activities, an unresolved 'Councillor Call for Action' (CCfA), through external audit or an Inspectorate Report e.g. 'Best Value', or by a member of the public who has been unable to resolve an issue by other means e.g. the complaints procedure
- The importance of the issue to the people of York e.g. public interest highlighted in local media or a high level of public/user dissatisfaction with a service
- The potential benefits of carrying out the review
- The urgency of the topic (see below), and whether it:
  - a) highlights a pattern of budgetary over / under spending
  - b) supports a CYC corporate priority
  - c) provides policy development opportunities

## Urgency

A topic is considered urgent if there is a strict time constraint i.e. an event about to occur or presently occurring, or if it is of high visibility, such as an issue that has strong media interest or public pressures to respond.

## Submitting a Topic

In order to submit a topic, a topic registration form must be completed, either on-line or by completing a paper copy. To request a form, please contact Scrutiny Services on Tel No. 01904 551088.

The registration form is designed to help the person proposing the topic to develop a clear and concise description of the topic, give their view on its importance, and provide all the relevant background information needed - the more detailed the information provided, the easier it will be for the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee to decide to carry out a review and agree a purposeful remit outlining the objectives and scope for the review.

Once received, a feasibility report will be produced, summarising the topic, explaining how it fits with the following eligibility criteria:

- i. Public Interest (ie. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)
- ii. Under Performance / Service Dissatisfaction
- iii. In keeping with the priorities within the **Corporate Strategy**
- iv. Level of Risk
- v. Service Efficiency



As a general rule, topics will only proceed to review if they meet three of the eligibility criteria. However, where it is adequately demonstrated that a topic is of significant public interest and fits with the first criteria but does not meet three, the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee may still decide to allocate the topic for review.

“ I attended Monday night’s meeting expecti surprised at the thought and consideration 1 analytical response”

ritical of the proposals, but was pleasantly ave to the matter, and by the measured and *Participant in Traffic Congestion Review*

If the topic doesn’t fit easily into the scope of a single committee, the topic registration form will be considered by the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) who will decide which Committee should receive and consider it.

## Carrying out a Review

An Overview & Scrutiny Committee may choose to carry out the review as a whole or create a ‘Task Group’ from within their membership, to carry out the review on their behalf.

Alternatively a Task Group can be formed to examine specific aspects of a review and report back its findings to the Committee.

A Committee may also appoint non-voting co-optees for the duration of a review. Such co-optees will be chosen for their relevant professional knowledge and expertise, or to ensure that the views of local residents or interested parties are represented.

## Public Participation

City of York Council has adopted a public participation scheme which encourages residents to attend its meetings and participate.

Residents are welcome to come along and observe any public meeting and may choose to contribute to the debate and express their views by registering to speak.

To register to speak at a meeting, contact Democratic Services on 01904 551088 by 5pm on the (working) day before the meeting.

## Consultation

A committee may choose to carry out a consultation exercise to gather relevant views from interested parties.

They may also ask any relevant external consultants / witnesses to attend to address them on any matter under consideration .

Attending a Scrutiny Committee meeting as a witness is voluntary and often a new experience for people. The City of York Council recognises the need to support witnesses and will keep witnesses informed throughout the scrutiny process to try and ensure that the experience is as stress free as possible. With this in mind, the Council has in place a ‘Witness Charter’.

### Witness Charter

The Council will:

- 1 inform the witness of the time, date and place of the scrutiny meeting at which their evidence is to be taken.
- 2 inform the witnesses of the matters about which the scrutiny committee wish to ask them. Inform the witnesses of any documents that the scrutiny committee wish to have produced for them.
- 3 provide reasonable notice of all of the requirements of the scrutiny committee to enable the witness to respond in full at the earliest opportunity.
- 4 provide copies of all relevant reports, papers and background information.
- 5 arrange for the Chair of the scrutiny meeting to introduce him/herself to the witness prior to the proceedings.
- 6 ensure that all witnesses are treated with courtesy and respect and that all questions to witnesses are made in an orderly manner as directed by the Chair of the meeting.
- 7 ensure where appropriate that the witness is provided with information about claiming witness expenses.
- 8 following the proceedings, write to the witness and where appropriate, inform them of the outcome.
- 9 the Council’s protocol on Officer/Member relations will apply to all internal witnesses.

# Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Introduction

This new scrutiny committee was formed as part of the process to replace the executive members' advisory panels. The committee members quickly adapted to their new role and worked well together to help promote improved organisation within the Council. Only a few topics were covered in depth during this first year, which was a deliberate aim in order to ensure that 'less was more'.

Cllr Watt, Chair

## Committee's Remit

**The Effective Organisation Overview and Scrutiny Committee was set up to promote a culture of continuous improvement across all Council service areas. It monitors efficiency across organisational/service boundaries to promote a seamless approach to service delivery.**

## Annual Work Programme

Throughout the year, the Committee received quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports, identifying issues specific to their remit for closer inspection, and resulting in a number of key reports relating to:

- CYC's Improvement Plan for 2009/10
- Risk Management
- Annual Audit for 2008/09
- CYC's 2010/11 Budget Strategy & Medium Term Financial Planning for 2011/12 to 2013/14

During the year, the Committee were pleased to meet with the Executive Leader and the Executive Member for Corporate Services, and received training on Local Government Finance to enable their effective scrutiny of financial management within the council. They also carried out a number of scrutiny reviews.

## The Effectiveness of the Executive Forward Plan Review

For some time, Councillors had been expressing concern about their inability to identify suitable topics for pre-decision scrutiny in order to help shape future council policy and practice.

Members decided to review the use of the Executive Forward Plan and as a result, identified a number of legal requirements that needed addressing and a number of format changes that would make the plan



more accessible and user-friendly to the organisation and the public.

Finally, the Committee recognised there was a general lack of awareness of and support for scrutiny across the organisation, and identified that an effective support system was required in order to raise its profile. As a result, they therefore recommended improvements to the level of appropriate engagement between overview & scrutiny committees, Executive Members and the council's corporate management team.



"It's been a great opportunity to experience Council business and get my teeth into some projects. I fully expect to be able to apply the learning from the scheme in every job I subsequently have"

*City of York Council Graduate Trainee*

## Committee Members

Councillors Watt (Chair), Horton (Vice-Chair), Boyce, D'Agorne, Firth, Gunnell, Hyman, R Watson



## CYC Apprenticeships & Other Work Based Learning Opportunities Review

The Committee recognised the demographic of the council's workforce was not representative of the community of York, with only around 337 employees under the age of 25. With that in mind, they looked at the arrangements currently in place within CYC for offering work experience and apprenticeships to young people, and the external funding opportunities that could be accessed to increase their numbers.

As part of the review, the Committee considered the draft of a Corporate Workforce Plan for 2010-12, and were pleased to find the plan included a diversity objective 'to help build an inclusive culture in which all are treated with dignity and respect', together with supporting actions to :

- increase the number of young people under 25 years old working for the council;
- increase the number of apprenticeships offered to young people,
- to develop a programme of short internships for local young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).



## Key Outcomes

- The council's Executive Forward Plan now reflects the full requirements of the legislation
- The profile of scrutiny across the council has been raised and each scrutiny committee now receives dedicated senior officer support
- The Council now has an effective workforce plan, which recognises the need to increase the number of young people being employed by the Council, and will ensure the right staff with the right skills are employed in the right places to deliver the right services to customers
- A reporting structure to measure the effectiveness and outturn of apprenticeships and other work based training is now in place.

The reviews completed by this committee in 2009-10, have supported the council's Corporate Strategy in a number of ways by aiming to:

- improve the Council's organisational effectiveness i.e. 'to be a modern council with high standards in all it does, living up to its values and being a great place to work and;
- Ensure employment rates remain high and that local people benefit from new job opportunities

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## Chair's Conclusion

With the Committee now firmly established and experienced in the role of scrutiny, it will move forward in this period of economic difficulties with increasing effectiveness to ensure that the City of York Council's organisation meets the expectations of York's citizens.

Cllr Watt

# Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Introduction

The Committee's first year under the new Council scrutiny arrangements presented challenges and opportunities. The work programme has been varied and we have continued to raise our public and media profile by looking at medical related casework and working well with regional health providers. I personally have welcomed the new structures, providing even greater opportunity for Health Scrutiny Chairs to work together across the region.

Cllr Alexander , Chair

## Remit

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertakes all of the Council's statutory functions under section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001, and section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006. These include:

- appointing members, from within the membership of the Committee, to any joint overview & scrutiny Committees with other local authorities, as directed under the National Health Service Act 2006.
- reviewing & scrutinising the impact of the services and policies of key partners, on the health of the city's population
- reviewing the arrangements made by the Council and local NHS bodies for public health within the city.

As well as reviewing and developing relevant Council policies, it reports and makes recommendations to the local NHS body or other local providers of services

It can also report to the Secretary of State for Health;

- a. Where the Committee is concerned that consultation on substantial variation or development of service has been inadequate
- b. Where the Committee considers that the proposals are not in the interests of the health service

## Annual Work Programme

Throughout the year, the Committee received quarterly City of York Council finance and performance monitoring reports, covering:

Adult Social Services i.e.

- Adults (older people, people with physical disabilities & sensory impairments)
- Adults' mental health
- Adults' learning disability



During the year the, Committee were pleased to receive a presentation from the Executive Member for Housing & Adult Social Services on safeguarding, personalisation and the outcomes of, and progress in relation to, the CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection) 2008 report., and to learn about his forthcoming priorities.

The Committee also received the following reports on :

- Relevant Key Performance Indicators to this Committee's remit
- Updates on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the dementia review
- The Care Quality Commission's new arrangements for registration
- Updates on dental services in York



## Committee Members

Members: Councillors Alexander (Chair), Wiseman (Vice-Chair), Aspden, Fraser, S Galloway, Simpson-Laing, Sunderland

- an Executive referral on overspends in Adult Social Services. After considering detailed information on this, the Committee decided a full scrutiny review was not required.

Finally, they received presentations from NHS North Yorkshire and York on ‘Transforming Community Services’, the Individual Funding Request Panel and ‘A Child’s First 6 Months: their expected health input both now & in the future’.



## Childhood Obesity Review

In July 2009, a report on the Corporate Strategy Key Performance Indicators relevant to the Committee’s remit, raised concern about the levels of obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year, and among primary school age children in Year 6. As a result, the Committee agreed to undertake a review to look at whether current service provision was effectively reducing childhood obesity in the city.



This review is still ongoing and is likely to be completed early in the 2010/2011 municipal year.

**The key outcomes arising from the Childhood Obesity Review are expected in early 2010/11**

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The Obesity Scrutiny Review supports the council’s Corporate Strategy by aiming to encourage people to make healthier choices and ensuring that health and social care services are quick to respond to those that need them.

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## Other Issues Considered

The Committee also received information on a proposed scrutiny topic regarding the care of new mothers and their newborn children. They deferred the decision on whether to proceed with this topic until 2010/11.

The Committee also continued its work on understanding its relationship with Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)

*LINKs are the independent, formally constituted bodies that have replaced the Patient and Public Involvement Forums, previously attached to all local NHS Trusts. They have been established within each local authority area in the country.*

It received a number of update reports which outlined the steps and measures needed, and the progress made to ensure that LINKs establishes an effective working relationship with the Council via this Committee.

## Chair’s Conclusion

2011-12 will be an interesting year for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee will continue with and bring to a conclusion its work on Childhood Obesity and hopefully have enough capacity to pursue its involvement with the regional health scrutiny agenda.

Cllr Alexander

# Learning and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Introduction

It was a privilege but a challenge to take on the role of Chair of a brand new Scrutiny Committee - namely the Learning and Culture Scrutiny committee. To get our heads round the brief we had several introductory sessions with both officers and Executive members to try and assess the nature and width of our brief. The Committee recognised it was an important part of our work to talk to the Executive members, the Chair of York at Large and other partners. Cllr Looker, Chair

## Remit

The Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitors the performance, achievements and developments of the service plan areas shown below:

- Early Years
- Schools & Communities
- Education Development Services
- School Governance Service
- Special Educational Needs
- Young People's Service
- Libraries & Heritage Services
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Sports & Active Leisure
- Arts & Cultural Services
- Adult Education, Access Education Planning & Resources



And, it identifies aspects of the Council's operation relating to delivery of the above services in need of review.

Externally, the Committee scrutinises the services provided to York's residents by other service providers, as appropriate.

## Annual Work Programme

Throughout the year, the Committee received quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports specific to their remit, and following a referral from the Executive, they considered detailed information on an overspend on 'Looked After' children.

They also received bi-annual reports from York Theatre Royal and the Yorkshire Museums Trust Partnership giving performance updates for 2009/10, together with a number of key reports relating to:

- The Renaissance Team
- York's Play Policy 'Taking Play Forward' & the Playbuilder Initiative
- A Draft Heritage Strategy
- The Refurbishment of the Main Library



In addition, the Committee were pleased to meet with the Executive Members for Children & Young People's Services and Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, and the Chairs of Learning City and York@Large.



## Committee Members

Councillors Looker (Chair), Brooks (Vice-Chair), Aspden, Crisp, Douglas, Hogg, Taylor, Waudby

The Committee also monitored the implementation of recommendations arising from a previously completed scrutiny review on a proposed Cultural Quarter for the City, and carried out a review of 'Casual Play Opportunities'



### Casual Play Opportunities Review

For a number of years there has been a growing focus on the importance of children being able to play. The Committee were

therefore keen to look at casual play opportunities across the city to assess if there was any potential for improvements .

The review focussed on comparing the play opportunities for 5-13 year olds, within a number of residential areas; one city centre, one suburban and one village.



As part of the review, the Committee carried out site visits to consult with local parents and were pleased to meet with representatives of York Playspace.

The findings showed that despite the type of residential area, the perceived barriers to play were the same – traffic, stranger danger, parents anxiety, space and quality of facilities.

It was recognised that in some areas of the city there was zero tolerance towards children playing in open spaces near homes, and that a more positive attitude towards play was needed within communities.

## Key Outcomes

A pilot scheme involving all relevant parties i.e. Play, Police, Housing, Parks & Open Spaces, Transport, Planning and the voluntary sector, was recommended to :

- trial ways of making a residential neighbourhood more child-friendly offering access to somewhere to play in freedom and safety and;
- identify a suitable strategy for the provision of casual play opportunities,

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The Casual Play Review supported the council's Corporate Strategy by aiming to make York a safer city, providing opportunities for children to develop their skills and for communities to grow and thrive.

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## Conclusion

I am looking forward to continuing the work of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny committee, with such a lot of change coming forward from a new government as well as the Council's own reorganisation it will be an opportunity for members to focus on how best to ensure real value for our York citizens - especially the children and young people in our communities - and work hard to ensure that we get the most out of our resources and our partnerships.

# Traffic Congestion Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee

## Introduction

It was always going to be a challenge taking on a review of this size and nature, but the Committee acknowledged the continuing priority that York residents place on tackling congestion and so worked hard to understand the potential future problems, what may or may not work, the scale of benefit and what the appropriate policy trade offs may be. As part of the review, the Committee involved all relevant parties and carried out a city-wide consultation to gather residents views.

*Cllr Merrett, Chair*

## Aim of Review

To identify ways of reducing present levels of traffic congestion in York, and ways of minimising the impact of the forecast traffic increase.

## Remit

Having regard to the impact of traffic congestion, the Committee were charged with recommending and prioritising specific improvements to:

- Economic Performance
- Quality of Life
- Road Safety
- CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions
- Air Quality, in particular looking at the five hotspots identified in the LTP2
- Journey times & reliability of public transport
- Accessibility to services, employment, education and health
- Alternative environmentally viable and financially practical methods of transport



The Committee carried out a comprehensive review of the Council's current transport policies, as expressed through the authority's 2nd Local Transport Plan and the 'Access York' initiative.

They also looked at their impact on meeting the anticipated traffic growth from the city's continued economic success and housing expansion in York, against the objectives of the review and the views of York residents.



The Committee found that 56% of York's commuting journeys were less than 3 miles, and therefore there was lots of room for improvements, in terms of undertaking more journeys by green and environmentally less damaging modes, car sharing and reducing congestion.

Notwithstanding the many positive initiatives and measures being undertaken by the Council, the Committee recognised they would be insufficient to avoid significantly worsening traffic and congestion problems over the next decade or so, even with the short term effects of the current recession, which could both adversely affect quality of life in York and undermine the City's future economic success and well-being.

Also, the anticipated growth in motorised traffic and congestion, despite vehicle efficiency improvements and modal shift, would lead to continuing air quality problems and increases in greenhouse gas emissions.

The Committee identified that as a 'Smart Choices' approach had proven effective elsewhere and was high in value for money terms, there was a need to persuade individuals to make socially informed choices, requiring specific on-going public engagement and promotional strategy around 'Smart Choices', including reinvigorating the Green Travel Plan approach with York employers and organisations.



## Committee Members

Councillors D Merrett (Chair), Hudson (Vice-Chair), Holvey, Orrell, Pierce, Simpson-Laing, Vassie



The Committee agreed that the broad overall solution to both congestion and the climate change challenge was a concerted approach using the hierarchy of measures outlined below:

- Reduce the need to travel, and the length of journeys (through IT, land use planning policies and other solutions)
- Undertake the maximum proportion of journeys by green and environmentally friendly modes
- Optimise the uptake of car sharing
- In short term, switch to lower carbon emission fuels, maximise engine efficiency and lower embedded carbon model
- In medium term switch to non-carbon based fuels (although need to be mindful of recent evidence that suggests growing crops for bio-fuels may be contributing to third world deforestation and food shortages, hence affecting food prices)
- Improve driving standards / training (for fuel efficiency and safety, and to make roads safer and more attractive to green travel modes)
- Reduce congestion delays and engine idling in traffic queues to reduce fuel wastage

## Key Outcomes

Many of the recommendations arising from the review were fed into the city’s third Local Transport Plan draft (LTP3) which will address the city’s transport needs for the period 2011-2016, including:

- An urgent review of the Council’s bus strategy, taking into account the new powers in the recent transport act, so as to move towards a bus network that is completely integrated from the bus users point of view, including integrated ticketing and day round services
- Funding the development of a comprehensive ‘Smart Choice’ package including personalised journey planning to maximise modal shift together with a re-energisation of ‘Travel Plans’, ensuring they are implemented, monitored and periodically updated

**More information on this review and a full list of the recommendations made, can be found at:**

[http://democracy.york.gov.uk/scrutiny\\_services/congestionreview](http://democracy.york.gov.uk/scrutiny_services/congestionreview)

## Conclusion

The review highlighted the Committee’s view that a major attitudinal change in the city is required if the massive challenge of rising traffic and congestion levels is to be addressed for the benefit of residents, visitors, and businesses.

Cllr Merrett

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The Traffic Congestion Review supported the council’s Corporate Strategy in a number of ways:

- by making York a cleaner and greener city and reducing the impact on the environment
- By making the city a healthier, more sustainable and thriving city, where residents have improved access to education, employment and health services.

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# Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Introduction

This Overview & Scrutiny Committee has devoted its first year under our new scrutiny arrangements to look at good practice elsewhere and forge links with various strategic partnerships. Throughout the year, the Committee looked at a wide range of issues and gathered lots of information, helping it to learn and appreciate its craft. A busy year, during which it was the only Committee to consider and deal with two new Councillor Calls for Action (CCFA).

Cllr Pierce, Chair

## Remit

The Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitors the performance, achievements and developments of the service plan areas shown below:

- Economic Development
- Planning
- City Development & Transport
- Housing Landlord
- Housing General
- Building Maintenance

And, it identifies aspects of the Council's operation relating to delivery of the above services in need of review, and scrutinises the services provided to the residents of York by other appropriate service providers.

## Annual Work Programme

Throughout the year, the Committee received quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports, identifying issues specific to their remit for closer inspection. This resulted in a further report on the distribution of travel tokens being presented to the Committee for information.

During the year, the Committee were pleased to hear from both the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for City Strategy.

The Committee also received reports on the following:

- Open letter from the York Environment Forum
- Updates on recommendations arising from previous scrutiny reviews
- The Economic Development Programme

## Newgate Market Review

The Committee undertook a review on Newgate Market (York's daily market area) after a shortfall in income had been reported to them through a finance and performance monitoring report.

The overall aim of the review was to investigate possible ways of improving the existing stall market and its surrounding area currently occupied by Newgate Market. This was as a contribution to the Renaissance Team's work and the Footstreets Review, enabling them to recommend new designs and roles for Newgate Market and the associated public realm.



The Committee visited the market during operational hours and in the evening when the market traders had left for the day.

The Committee received information on the Market from the City Centre Management Team. They have also received evidence on what constitutes a good market from a representative of the National Association of British Market Traders.

This review is still ongoing and will be completed in 2010/11.



## Committee Members

Councillors Pierce (Chair), Hudson (Vice-Chair), D’Agorne, Holvey, Hyman, Kirk, Potter, Scott



The key outcomes arising from the Newgate Market Review are expected early in 2010/11

## Other Issues Considered

During the year, the Committee considered a number of other possible topics for review i.e.:

- Implementation of Planning Conditions & Adoption of New Housing Estates
- Acceptance of Euros by York Businesses



At the time, the Committee decided not to proceed with either of those reviews and agreed to reconsider them both at the beginning of the municipal year 2010/11.



The Committee also received a report and presentation on ‘Safe Access to Schools & School Travel Plans’.

Having agreed the review would need to look at some services outside the committee’s remit, they requested that Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) set up a cross-cutting ad-hoc scrutiny committee to carry out the review.

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The Newgate Market Review supported the council’s Corporate Strategy by supporting York’s successful economy to make sure that employment rates remain high and that local people benefit from job opportunities.

It also touches on elements of the Sustainable City and Effective Organisation themes in the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012.

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SMC agreed with this approach and as a consequence, an Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee was formed, made up of members from three of the standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The review will be commenced at the start of the new municipal year 2010/11.

Finally, in the past year there have been two Councillor Calls for Actions (CCfAs) in York, both resulting in scrutiny reviews, which were carried out by this Committee - information on these can be found at pages 18-19.

## Chair’s Conclusion

This Committee has had a very active year. We have worked together on small Task Groups to look into issues in more detail. We have worked with local residents to bring about hopefully positive change for them and been to see how Newgate Market operates and what concerns have been caused by the junction changes at Water End. Next year, the Committee will take forward some of the investigations it started in 2009/10 and continue its work in the spirit of active involvement.

Cllr Pierce

# Councillor Calls for Action

Ward Councillors play a central role in the life of a local authority, as a conduit for discussion between the Council and its residents and as a champion for local concerns. To strengthen a Councillor's ability to carry out this role the Government enacted in the Local Government and Public Health Act 2007, provisions for a 'Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)'. This provides Councillors with the opportunity to ask for discussions at Scrutiny Committees on issues where local problems have arisen and where other methods of resolution have been exhausted.

In 2009-10, there were two CCfAs which resulted in scrutiny work being undertaken. Both of these were dealt with by the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee and are detailed below:

## Broadway Shops CCfA Scrutiny Review

Ward Councillors raised this in relation to ongoing problems around maintenance, parking and safety issues at Broadway Shops. The problems were historic and the fact that the land in front of the shops was not owned by anyone complicated matters.

The aim of the review was therefore to define a safe pedestrian route across the shop frontages which was acceptable to all parties, and to investigate the possibility of removing/remodelling the traffic island in order to put a designated parking area in place, in the long term.

In an effort to find a solution to the problems, a nominated Member of the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee facilitated a number of meetings between the Council, local retailers, the Residents' Association and the Ward Councillors.

As a result it was agreed that a safe pedestrian walkway would be created in the area by painting a white line approximately 2m from the store fronts and strategically placing large flower tubs and cycle hoops to stop people parking too close to the shop fronts.



## Key Outcomes

The Residents' Association offered to pay for the works and an onsite meeting between all parties was arranged regarding where the items should be placed.

A further facilitated discussion will take place this summer to discuss whether the works undertaken have improved pedestrian safety and if further alterations will be needed.

## Water End CCfA Scrutiny Review

Following alterations to the junction at Water End and Clifton Green, Ward Councillors for Clifton responded to significant resident dissatisfaction by registering a CCFA.



The changes to the junction were made as part of the implementation of the orbital cycle route for the city.

However, residents felt they had resulted in additional congestion in the area and an increased use of Westminster Road and The Avenue by through traffic.

The aim of the review was therefore to determine the best solution for the problems experienced by local residents, and to look at what lessons could be learnt in order to inform the implementation of similar schemes in the city, based on the following key objectives:

- To establish whether local concerns still exist in the light of the Executive Member's decision
- To explore whether further improvements could be made to address the traffic issues
- To identify those measures or actions that could be taken to assist in the smooth implementation of similar schemes in the city
- To understand the context of the Land Compensation Act 1973 in relation to this CCfA

The Task Group gathered information and held an event to listen to the public's views.

It became clear that despite prior consultation, the consequences of the alterations had not been foreseen. The traffic modelling used had not incorporated side streets and the increased use of residential streets by through traffic had not been predicted.

*It was recognised, that as a consequence of the changes to the junction at Water End, traffic levels in Westminster Road and The Avenue had increased substantially.*

So, whilst cycle usage had increased, the changes to the junction had caused an exceptional set of circumstances for local residents.



Residents in the side streets believed that a point closure would be the best solution, but the Task Group recognised that this alone would not solve the problems and could lead to increased congestion on the main highway.

There were also geographic constraints at the junction making widening difficult.

## Key Outcomes

The Executive were asked to endorse:

- That Council Officers urgently develop new, comprehensive proposals for the Water End junctions to improve the current junction and reduce greatly traffic flows in Westminster Road/The Avenue
- That the Council should, in future, use traffic models which incorporate side streets when assessing and designing junction improvements
- That the present policy of reviewing new highway schemes only after a period of twelve months should be modified to enable a review after three months when unforeseen consequences have arisen and when Ward Members request.

# Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Introduction

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee has had a productive first year, getting to know its key partners and looking at a number of policies specific to its remit. The statutory crime and disorder function of this Committee is a new area but one which it takes very seriously and for that reason has spent time in 2009/10 establishing relationships with North Yorkshire Police and the Safer York Partnership.

Cllr Bowgett, Chair

## Committee's Remit

The Community Safety and Overview Committee reviews the performance, achievements and development of the following council service plan areas :

- Safer City
- Environmental Health & Trading Standards
- Street Scene
- Cleansing Services
- Waste Collection Services
- Waste Management Strategy (Client)
- Building Cleaning Services
- Highways Maintenance Services
- Street Environment
- Bereavement Services
- Licensing & Regulation
- Youth Offending Team

It also identifies aspects of the Council's operation relating to delivery of the above services in need of development and/or review.

## Annual Work Programme

At the beginning of the year, the Committee received training on its new role of scrutinising crime & disorder issues affecting the city.

It also received quarterly CYC finance and performance monitoring reports, and quarterly reports from the Safer York Partnership identifying issues specific to their remit for closer inspection, and resulting in a number of key reports on the following:

- The Council's Alleygating Policy
- CYC's Drug Action Team
- The Re-structure of the Police Force in York

During the year, the Committee were pleased to meet with the Executive Leader & Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, and they received a presentation by North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service on their role within the local Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).



Finally during 2009-10, the Committee also carried out the following scrutiny review .

## The Review of City of York Council's Winter Maintenance Policy

This subject proved to be very important to residents as York suffered the worst winter for a number of years, with a prolonged spell of snow and ice in December 2009 and January 2010.



“ It would be helpful if the Council could prioritise route into town from N, E, S & W and give it really high priority ”  
*Feedback from staff member at York Hospitals Foundation Trust*

**Councillor D Bowgett**  
 Chair of the Community Safety  
 Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Committee Members

Councillors Bowgett (Chair), Gillies (Vice-Chair), S Galloway, King, Orrell, Vassie, B Watson,



The Committee chose to carry out a review of the council’s Winter Maintenance Policy after many ward councillors received complaints, particularly about the treating of footpaths throughout the city.

They also received complaints about some roads and cycle paths which the public perceived had not been gritted despite the long period of bad weather. Concern was also expressed about the positioning of salt bins in the city.

### Key Outcomes

In times of severe weather:

- up-to-date information on the gritting of ‘main’ cycle access routes into the city will be provided via the council’s website and in other ways, to allow cyclists to make an informed decision on whether or not to use their bicycle and which route to take
- Based on an agreed criteria, a list of secondary roads has been identified for gritting

In addition, it was recommended that a public information leaflet be produced containing information on (or pointers to) all the services residents may need to be able to function in times of severe weather or emergency situations.

### Other Issues Considered

2009-10 was the first year this Committee took responsibility for the Council’s statutory functions relating to the scrutiny of crime and disorder matters (in line with Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act (2006).

This has enabled it to scrutinise the provision of services by other external service providers such as North Yorkshire Police.



<b>C O R P O R A T E</b>	<p>The review of CYCs Winter Maintenance Policy supported the council’s Corporate Strategy by aiming to provide an environment which allows workers and visitors to travel freely and safely around the city in times of severe weather, thereby maintaining the city’s economy. This supports the council’s strategic aim to make the city safer and enabling it to thrive.</p>	<b>S T R A T E G Y</b>
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The Committee considered carrying out a review of CCTV in York, as in recent times the use of closed circuit TV (CCTV) has become a key concern within communities, and has prompted many local authorities to focus on its associated benefits and problems.

Since the introduction of new local government arrangements, independent scrutiny reviews and investigations have been a popular way to address these concerns.



However, having been informed that a report on CCTV was scheduled to go to the Executive in Spring 2010 addressing the concerns raised, the Committee chose not to proceed with a review.

### Chair’s Conclusion

In the coming year, I am hoping the Committee will continue to strengthen its external relationships and look at further opportunities to improve our own Council services in this area.

Cllr Bowgett

# Scrutinising Crime and Disorder Issues In York

Community safety is not just an issue for the Police. Like every challenging outcome local authorities and their partners care and deliver for their communities, it needs a wide range of people and organizations to be involved and contribute to addressing crime and it's causes.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) were created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to develop and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder. They exist to ensure that a number of prescribed 'responsible authorities' work together to jointly agree and deliver community safety priorities. These responsible authorities, who have a long history of working together and getting results, are:

- The local authority
- The police force
- The police authority
- The fire and rescue authority
- The primary care trust

## Safer York Partnership

In York, the CDRP is known as the **Safer York Partnership**.

In order to identify and deliver on the priorities that matter most to the local community, it is required to carry out a number of main tasks, including:

- Preparing an annual strategic assessment identifying the crime and community safety priorities in the area, through analysis of information provided by partner agencies and the community
- Producing a partnership plan, laying out the approach for addressing those priorities
- Undertaking community consultation and engagement on crime and disorder issues
- Sharing information among the responsible authorities within the CDRP



## Scrutinising the work of the local CDRP

Every local authority is required to have an Overview & Scrutiny Committee that is responsible for scrutinising the decisions made and the actions taken by the local CDRP.

In York this responsibility lies with the **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee**.

The role of the committee is one of a 'critical friend' of the CDRP, i. e. they provide it with constructive challenges at a strategic level, rather than looking to find fault at an operational level. Its aim is to:

- Enhance existing partnership arrangements
- Create a clearer link between the partner agencies and the public on community safety.
- Develop a clear structure for overseeing and reviewing the delivery of joint responses on community safety

The scrutiny of crime and disorder issues is an important tool for community safety partners to work together to resolve crime and disorder problems, in a forum which is open to the public. It's aim is to boost the public's confidence that police and local authorities are acting on crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

The committee considers actions undertaken by the responsible authorities on the CDRP and reports or makes recommendations to either the local authority, or direct to one of the responsible partners.



# Overview and Scrutiny - the next twelve months.....

The new Overview & Scrutiny Committees worked hard in 2009/10 to establish what they wanted to do and achieve and are planning to build upon their experiences over the next 12 months. Some Committees will be taking forward commitments to looking at issues they identified in 2009/10. In particular Scrutiny Management Committee will oversee the work of a joint ad-hoc committee it established to look at 'Safe Access & Travel to School'.

From July 2010, all Committees will be setting their work programmes for the year ahead, identifying key areas they would like to look at in more detail. Following on from that, they will meet with Executive Members and partners to learn about their plans. Those discussions will shape further the direction of scrutiny over the year ahead.

As in 2009/10, the Scrutiny Committees will continue to build in capacity to deal with matters 'called in' by other Members for their consideration or referred to them by Ward Councillors under the, still relatively new, '*Councillor Call for Action requirements*'.

For the first time, scrutiny will be inviting local residents to suggest areas they think warrant the attention of scrutiny. Also, a new corporate petitions scheme will be introduced which may well result in some petitions being referred for further investigation to scrutiny.

Finally, but by no means least, scrutiny will be reviewing its own processes to make sure it responds flexibly to local needs and priorities.

**For more information about Overview & Scrutiny in York, or for more detailed information on any of the completed reviews outlined in this Annual Report, please contact one of the Scrutiny Team:**

Dawn Steel, Democratic Services Manager  
Tel: 01904 551030  
Email: [dawn.steel@york.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.steel@york.gov.uk)

Melanie Carr, Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 01904 552063  
Email: [melanie.carr@york.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.carr@york.gov.uk)

Responsible for the following  
Overview & Scrutiny Committees:  
Effective Organisation  
Learning & Culture  
Community Safety  
Traffic Congestion

Tracy Wallis, Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 01904 551714  
Email: [tracy.wallis@york.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.wallis@york.gov.uk)

Responsible for the following  
Overview & Scrutiny Committees:  
Economic & City Development  
Health

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**Report to Council – Children and Young People’s Services – July 2010**

This year started with the culmination of months and months of work as the North of England Education Conference got underway here in York in January. Despite the appalling weather, most of the delegates arrived safely and some arrived that had not been expected, so the hall was full. Among the many outstanding contributions, those by the children of the city were of an exceptionally high standard. Their drama, music and dance were a credit to the city and the individual letters they had written to all the delegates about why they like living in York and their hopes for the future are still a source of interest and discussion. It was an event which consolidated the city’s place and profile in the national education world and an event of which the city can be very proud. Thanks are due to all who were involved in its planning and organisation.

In March, the new Joseph Rowntree School opened on time on budget and the Chair of Governors has done sterling work in giving up so much of his time to show round the numerous groups of visitors who have come to wonder at the building, thus ensuring that the daily work of the school is not disrupted. Music and dance were on show again at the opening of the ninth Children’s Centre at Knavesmire School, which will give good service to the children and families in the surrounding area. Our two new primary school buildings are progressing as planned, as are the plans for extending the Applefields Special School building.

I have recently had a letter from the Prison Reform Trust congratulating CYC’s Youth Offending Team on their work to divert young people from custody. Our first time entrants to the Youth Justice System are down as are Reoffending Rates – we are well aware of the negative impact on future outcomes for young people if they become engaged in the criminal justice system. These figures make very encouraging reading and the YOT team are to be commended for them. It is good to hear of the tributes paid to the young people sent from the YOT to such organisations as the York Archaeological Trust and we will continue to use opportunities such as these to provide good and useful experiences for these young people.

CYC’s NEET figures represent the best performance in the North of England. The most recent monitoring showed a reduction in NEET figures, broadly in line with previous years performance and this despite the economic downturn. The outturn is only 0.1 % higher than last year. It is also of significance that the latest data on

Teenage pregnancy in the city shows three successive quarters where there has been a reduction in teenage pregnancy figures

In the area of Children's Social Care, there is an increased use of our child index and more CAFs (Common Assessment Framework) have been completed. This shows a good awareness of safeguarding by all agencies involved with children, as CAFs can and are completed by many different professionals, not just those in the Department. The number of households with dependent children living in temporary accommodation has reduced, representing excellent progress in creating an environment in which more positive overall outcomes for children are more likely.

Our focus on Child Poverty remains and increasingly less children live in poverty in York than nationally; the gap between local and national figures having widened. We are developing a new local strategy in line with the present statutory expectations. A key factor in making such progress is the success of our parenting programmes and there are still excellent levels of engagement. Such programmes can – over time – deliver significant savings, as parents enhance their skills and so have less need of high-level professional interventions.

We need to ensure that progress for all communities is maintained and that safeguarding through prevention and early intervention is prioritised. This will help to make sure that only those young people for whom there is no alternative come into the care of the Local Authority and that if they do, they are placed locally. We have continued to recruit Foster Carers and Adoptive Families and our care population remains at 223 – which is the effect of much hard work by our social care teams. It is good to report that it has clearly plateaued over past six months. There has been no increase in out of authority placements. Thanks are due to the Fostering and Adoption Teams who continue to respond to the pressures put upon them and to gain good inspection reports.

Strong partnership arrangements are a feature of all our work in the city, both across the school community, with the Learning City Board and through YorOK, York's Children's Trust. We also have strong partnership working with York College and other post 16 providers and staying on rates are high in the city. Despite previous funding cuts, Adult Learning continues to grow creatively, both at the centres at York, Acomb and New Earswick Explore and informally through York's excellent museums, working with organisations such as the York Museums Trust in areas such as culture, heritage and science.

Young People's engagement in 2 hrs PE continues to increase and it is always good to see press reports of the many sporting activities in which young people are engaged around the city. Huge numbers of both boys and girls play football, rugby, cricket and many other team games and individual sports that enable them to have healthier lives, enjoyment and the experience of working with others.

The work of our new Youth Council deserves mention – they ran an excellent Festival of Youth held recently, much enjoyed by our Lord Mayor and many other local residents. We work hard to have good engagement with young people in all aspects of their lives and there are many opportunities for them to express their views and know that they will be taken into account, both in school and out.

In summary, York's young people are living healthier more active lives, less likely to become involved in offending, more likely to volunteer and be involved in their communities and to be engaged in something meaningful at age 16-18 than anywhere in north of England. We show exceptional improvement in the educational performance of young people at Key Stage 4 from more disadvantaged communities and with young people from minority ethnic groups. Our Key Stage 4 results overall put us in top 10% of Local Authorities nationally.

However, complacency is not on our agenda and we will continue to strive with our partners to ensure we remain a high achieving local authority of which we can all be proud. We are in challenging times in respect of changes in national policy and public spending issues but we have confidence that the partnership culture across schools and children's services in York remains absolutely committed to achieving success for all.

*Carol Runciman.*

*Executive Member for Children and Young People.*

*July 2010.*

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## Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

### **Committees/Working Groups**

#### Audit & Governance Committee

To appoint:

Cllr Waudby as first LD substitute, in place of Cllr Jamieson-Ball  
Cllr Orrell as second LD substitute, in place of Cllr R Watson

#### Member Development Steering Group

To appoint the following additional Members to the Group:

Green	(1)	Cllr D'Agorne	
		Cllr Taylor	substitute

#### Appointments Panel for Assistant Director posts

(Panel of 3 to be selected from the following pool, on a 1-1-1 basis)

Lib Dem	(7)	Cllr Ayre
		Cllr Steve Galloway
		Cllr Moore
		Cllr Morley
		Cllr Reid
		Cllr Runciman
		Cllr Waller

Labour	(7)	tba
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Conservative	(7)	tba
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### **Outside Bodies**

#### Adoption Panel

To appoint Cllr Wiseman to the Panel, in place of Cllr Morley

#### Charity of Jane Wright

To note the resignation of Mrs Dorothy Cooper

York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership

To note that this group has now re-formed as the York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership Executive, attended by Officers with Member engagement through an annual conference.