



Notice of public meeting of

Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillors Gunnell (Chair), Richardson (Vice-Chair), Kramm, Mason, Funnell, Hunter and Dew

Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2016

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: The King John Room (GO59) - West Offices

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. Minutes

(Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee held on 17 May 2016.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Committee's remit can do so. The deadline for registering is **Tuesday 28 June 2016 at 5.00 pm.**

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The Council's protocol on Webcasting, Filming & Recording of Meetings ensures that these practices are carried out in a manner both respectful to the conduct of the meeting and all those present. It can be viewed at:

https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/6453/protocol_for_webcasting_filming_and_recording_council_meetingspdf

4. Attendance of Executive Member for Environment
(Pages 5 - 12)

The Executive Member for Environment will be in attendance at the meeting to outline the priorities and challenges in his portfolio.

5. Report on Riverside Safety (Pages 13 - 44)

A presentation will be given which will inform Members on steps that have been taken following a review of waterside safety arrangements.

6. Commissioning Through Ward Budgets: Introductory Report (Pages 45 - 56)

This report sets out information intended to help the scrutiny committee to decide whether to conduct a scrutiny review of commissioning at ward level.

7. Work Plan 2016/17 (Pages 57 - 58)

Members are asked to consider the Committee's workplan for the municipal year 2016/17.

8. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer:

Name- Judith Betts

Telephone- 01904 551078

Email- judith.betts@york.gov.uk

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

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

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

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

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

 **(01904) 551550**

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	17 May 2016
Present	Councillors Gunnell (Chair), Richardson (Vice-Chair), Funnell, Kramm, K Myers and Mason
Apologies	Councillor Orrell

57. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal interests, not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in respect of business on the agenda. No additional interests were declared.

58. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15 March 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

59. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's public participation scheme.

60. Goose Management Scrutiny Review - Cover Report

Consideration was given to the final report from the Goose Management Scrutiny Review which had been re-presented to Members. This was to enable them to consider whether they wished to reconsider any of the recommendations of the review, in light of the decision of the Executive in April.

It was noted that Councillor Kramm as Chair of Task Group had presented the report, in some detail, to the Executive and whilst thanking the Task Group for their work the Executive had raised concerns regarding the resourcing and officer time required to produce and implement an integrated goose management strategy. The Executive had therefore not approved the recommendations as presented but had referred them back to the Committee for redrafting and for further consideration by the Executive Member, in line with budget constraints.

Members referred to the extensive work already undertaken in relation to the review and agreed that the recommendations as presented to the Executive in April 2016 were the most appropriate to properly address the city's needs in relation to goose management. They noted that it had not traditionally been the role of scrutiny to produce reports or recommendations which an Executive could always support and therefore agreed that further consideration would set a precedent for the future working relationship between Scrutiny and the Executive.

Officers confirmed that they would try to identify any practical measures that could be taken to enable some or all of the recommended measures to be taken forward.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: That, having considered and reflected on the feedback from the Executive in relation to the final report of the Goose Management Scrutiny Review Task Group, the Committee agreed to refer back the final report and recommendations to the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism for reconsideration.

Reason: To take account of the Executives recommendations and in order to conclude the Scrutiny Review in line with CYC Scrutiny procedures and policy.

61. Work Programmes

Members reviewed their current years work programme and gave consideration to possible scrutiny topics for the 2016/17 municipal year.

A copy of the Committee's draft work plan for the forthcoming year was also circulated for member's consideration.

The following suggestions were put forward and Officers commented on each:

- There was a need for more focus on scrutiny work rather than Officer updates (which could be emailed to Members and any subsequent concerns raised with Officers at a subsequent meeting)
- Collection of clinical waste from pharmacies and general practitioners – a review of clinical waste collections is ongoing and will be reported to a future Executive Member Decision Session, in due course
- Fly Tipping Tang Hall Beck – it was noted that there were proposals to dredge the beck which would alleviate current problems
- Homelessness and begging in the city – the Police 3 step approach – Members noted details of current training sessions on homelessness and housing. Cllr Mason to examine issues for consideration as a potential topic at the Committee's next meeting
- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) licences – Officers to email link to draft report and action plan regarding licences to the Committee ¹.
- Update on Drainage Boards –noted that this would be picked up by the Independent Flood Inquiry
- Section 106 Open Space payments – Officers to circulate link to spreadsheet of payments received and monies spent ².
- Circus and Animal Performance Policy – Officers to work with Cllr Kramm to enable a topic registration form to be submitted to the Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee
- Early Night Time Economy – if particular focus identified – possible future topic
- A-Boards – to discuss with Executive Member at a future meeting
- Fly tipping in City Centre – safety issues – potential topic
- Overview substance misuse team - update required from relevant authorities
- York's approach to Neighbourhood Working, procurement of schemes, outcomes/measures and experience of other authorities – possible scrutiny topic

- Resolved: (i) That the Committee's draft work plan for the 2016/17 municipal year be received and noted subject to the following:
- 29 June 2016
 - Slip attendance of an Executive Member to July meeting
- (iii) That, on his next attendance, the Executive Member for Transport & Planning be requested to provide an update on the ongoing Officer review of the Council's 'A-Boards' policy.
- (iv) That representatives from the North Yorkshire Police and Safer York Partnership be requested to attend a future meeting to report on:
- enforcement options and ongoing work in relation to begging in the city
 - drug related crime and disorder

Reason: To ensure that the committee has a planned programme of work in place.

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Email link to HMO draft report and action plan to Committee. | SW |
| 2. Email link to Section 106 spreadsheet information. | CC |

Cllr J Gunnell, Chair
[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.40 pm].

**Report for Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee 27th
June 2016**

The forthcoming year

1. Flooding and Flood Defences

The aftermath of the 'Boxing Day' 2015 Floods of 627 properties (453 residential including council homes and 20 travellers pitches and 174 businesses) will be a major issue for the forthcoming year with work through the;

- 1) Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee which oversees the spending of DEFRA funds to the region for flood defence
- 2) North Yorkshire Flood Partnership – which brings together the Inland Drainage Boards, Yorkshire Water, Environment Agency and York and North Yorkshire Councils (representative members and officers)
- 3) The work on the Foss Barrier is key to protecting large sections of the east and north of the city, and has obtained £17 million of special funding.
- 4) The additional £45 million for funding in York has been the subject of development of plans by the Environment Agency working with officers to review work which will defend homes and properties from flooding. The council supported the two days on 20th and 21st May where the initial plans, and independent review of the Foss Barrier failure were exhibited to members of the public. This information is on the council website for those who were unable to attend.

The areas being considered in the improvements plan are Bishopthorpe, Clementhorpe, Clifton & Rawcliffe, Foss, Fulford and Germany Beck, Holgate Beck pumping station, Naburn and Acaster Malbis, Osbaldwick and Tang Hall, Poppleton and City Centre. Each of these will involve considerable consultation with councillors, and the local community, and I shall be engaging alongside council officers in ensuring that the city gets maximum use from the available funding. One area of concern that I have expressed to Ministers is the volume of partnership funding which will be required by DEFRA from the city towards the £45 million investment – this national policy is that it is not less than 15% and could be required against £37.2 million of the £45 million.



2. Resilience and surface water drainage

The revised gulley cleaning policy has added roads to the annual gulley cleaning list and I am working with officers to ensure surface water drainage issues are followed through and a dynamic list of areas under investigation. If councillors know of locations where there are ongoing issues I would be grateful if they could check with the list from the March 7th Executive Member Decision Session as new areas continue to be identified.

So far Resilience grant data shows

- i. 124 applications received by City of York Council
- ii. £338,815.90 of which 74 are approved
- iii. £136,593.10 (23 fully paid and 42 interim payments)

A support officer has been jointly funded with the Two Ridings Charity to help residents to complete the resilience forms. Please could councillors let me know if there are any problems with getting these forms completed (there is a parallel process with Make it York for businesses which has not had the call for resources that had been anticipated).

3. Waste Services

The review of service provision continues as part of the overall review of Street Based Services which will be completed during the summer, this includes:

- **Vehicle procurement** – replacement of the old ‘fame’ vehicles used to collect recycling, works are ongoing to identify the most appropriate vehicle available and procurement will commence by the end of July, with an expected timescale of up to 9 months. This has been as a response to concern from residents about times when recycling is co-mingled due to the ‘fame’ vehicle being off the road. In this case the recycling is taken for sorting and is not landfilled.
- **Optimisation of refuse and recycling collection rounds** – All our collection rounds are being reviewed and with the use of existing software will be optimised to ensure we are undertaking the work in the most efficient manner.
- **St Nicholas Field** – The current Service Level Agreement for the collection of recycling in certain areas of the city will be replaced with a tendered contract, the areas to be collected will compliment our optimisation work, the new contract will commence by April 2017. I appreciate the close working that the council has had with St Nick’s over many years
- **Working with the Business Improvement District (BID) team** – We are currently talking to the BID team regarding the trial of an improved Commercial Waste collection service; talks are at a very early stage with possible implementation of a trial in 17/18.



4. Public Realm

Again the review of service provision continues as a part of the overall review of Street Based Services mainly targeted at our work on devolved budgets, this includes:

- **Street cleansing schedules** - The introduction of new street cleansing schedules is due to commence in July, which will be trialled for three months. The new schedules reflect what is actually required in different areas of the city using the local knowledge of frontline staff, residents and councillors. Following completion of the trial, amendments will be made where required by wards within available resources.
- **Grounds maintenance** - Work continues to engage with volunteer groups to identify where and how they can assist in maintaining or where identified as being required by the local community, actually improve standards. We are in discussion with the CVS regarding the creation of a city wide volunteer “action” or project group, and / or increasing area or site based volunteering. This work will be funded from the £50k budget available to support this following the Executive Member decision session on 10th May.

5. One Planet York and Sustainability and Carbon Management

The council has set out how it will update its sustainability policies.

York has strong reasons to appreciate the impact of Climate Change through flooding and the Council has a responsibility to lead in the progression towards a sustainable use of resources based on the principle of ‘one planet living’.

On the 17th March 2016, the Executive approved the implementation of [OnePlanetYork](#) (OPY) so that sustainability is put ‘at the heart of everything we do’ and drives wider progress towards more sustainable and resilient ‘One Planet living’. The city-wide programme was officially launch on Earth Day on 22 April 2016 and a launch event held on 15 June 2016.

Actions for 2016 /17

The council will play a key role in facilitating and supporting this programme in the early stages by:

1. Compiling the OnePlanetYork Prospectus, vision and 10 principles,
2. Secure endorsements of the OPY vision from 12 influential York organisations,
3. Showcase city leadership to inspire others and attract further endorsements,
4. Publish guides and resources,
5. Regular reporting, and
6. Explore city governance.



The Council also approved becoming a OnePlanetCouncil and will adopting a new strengthened approach to sustainability by:

1. The creation of a new OnePlanetCouncil policy and the adoption of 10 key principles,
2. New OnePlanetCouncil Action Plan,
3. Series of tools to support officers to embed OP principles and to deliver organisational change,
4. New Carbon and Resource Smart Council Management Programme – focusing on carbon and resource efficiency,
5. New internal communications,
6. New regular reporting on progress, and
7. New internal OPC Board to govern the council programme.

There are savings which can be made in terms of energy and water use which ensure the utilisation of resources for frontline services, which also in this case make a significant impact in reducing carbon emissions, and the use of limited resources.

I have asked officers to bring forward plans to develop a Carbon Management Programme which includes water usage but which will have measurable outcomes broken down by year. This will build on the success of the council's first Carbon Management Programme set in 2008. This met its goal of reducing carbon emissions by 25% by having a sound business plan with stretch targets built in.

Update July 2016

The following will be presented at the 1/8/2016 Executive Member for Environment Session:

1. Draft OnePlanetCouncil Policy
2. Draft OnePlanetCouncil Action Plan – incorporating
- complete draft of the new Carbon and Resource Smart Council Management Plan
3. New Integrated Impact Assessment tool for all new council projects
4. Updates on renewable energy and district heating

There are opportunities for the council to encourage the local generation of renewable energy appropriate to the location. This can be either on council land/property or through new developments. I have asked that a report comes to the Executive this autumn to progress this work including feasibility studies.

Renewable Power

The council in 2015 was exploring opportunities for solar energy generation across its estate, focussing mainly on larger sites. However, the Government in August 2015 consulted on changes to the Renewable Obligations and Feed-In-Tariffs. As a result CYC suspended work until the result of the consultation was known. The Government implemented the proposed changes in the winter of 2015 and therefore our schemes were no longer financially viable in the short term. CYC continues to look at smaller scale opportunities across its estate and is part of a regional [ELENA](#) (European Local ENergy Assistance) bid, led by Leeds City Region (LCR), to the European Investment Bank for technical assistance on a range of low carbon opportunities across the city, including council, wider public estate and community schemes (estimated support worth ~£1million for York). If successful, such support will be available in York from autumn 2016 – 2019. Clearly this is under threat due to the EU referendum result.

I have been in discussions with York Community Energy to review areas where the council can work in partnership.

District Heating

CYC has secured £50k from regional and central government to carry out a technical, low carbon district heat network feasibility study for York Central.

Businesses

Through LCR, a bid for ERDF funding to support SME's in the city become resource efficient through energy, water and waste efficiency support has been submitted. Subject to a successful bid, this support is likely to be available to SMEs in York in autumn 2016.

Energy Switching

Over a 1000 homes have now switched energy suppliers through the Big Community Switch scheme (via CYCs partner iChoosr). These people who have switched have saved up to £200 off their energy bills. CYC is also exploring options to provide a greater level of support to vulnerable, fuel poor residents and those on pre-payment meters. We are currently looking at various options including an option run by Leeds City Council (to be launched in summer 2016). Leeds City Council has identified an opportunity to form an energy services company (ESCo) in partnership with an existing licenced energy supplier. The council can use this ESCo to sell gas and electricity to domestic customers. The main advantage of this ESCo arrangement is that the council can offer lower cost energy tariffs to all Leeds residents with fair, consistent, and transparent pricing policies. It also has targeted support for the fuel poor and pre-payment customers. This could save the average Leeds resident between £100 and £200 annually. They are now offering this service to other authorities across Yorkshire and Humber. CYC is reviewing this option to ensure any service offered would offer a fair price for customers in York and is transparent and would continue to offer competitive rates whilst helping the fuel poorest and those on pre-payment meters. A paper on this work and the results of the review will come to a future Executive Member for Environment session.

Green Jobs Task Force

This group has been set up to explore opportunities to create greater levels of green jobs and training opportunities across the city. An action plan is being developed and will focus on high-value job creation.

Cllr Andrew Waller

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Communities &
Environment
Policy &
Scrutiny
Committee
River Safety
29.6.16

Dave Meigh



Context

- Following a series of deaths from drowning during winter 2013/14 RoSPA were commissioned to review water side safety arrangements.
 - a. River Ouse – RSPCA / Water End to Millennium Bridge
 - b. River Foss – Blue Bridge to “iron bridge” over Huntington Road / Arran Place
 - c. Rawcliffe Lake, Centurion Lagoon, Clifton Backies Pond, Chapmans Pond and Rowntree Park Lake

Timeline

- April 14 - risk assessed and safety rated rivers, lakes and ponds
- June 14 – initial findings presented to River Safety Advisory Group
- Sept 14 – final report with detailed recommendations around two themes –
 - physical interventions and
 - education / awareness raising.
- Oct / Nov 14 - Release of new funding and work programme starts

RoSPA recommendations & actions

- CYC to state its safety standards
- Consistency
- Implement action plan to meet standards for
 - Lifebuoy provision
 - Reduce the likelihood of people getting in the water
 - Assisting self rescue / to be rescued
 - Minor works to achieve above
 - Inspection and future maintenance

York safety standards

- Lifebuoys will be provided at regular intervals, be located near light columns, be accessible from the river e.g. adjacent to steps and take account of flood conditions.
- River bank edges will be defined by at least one of the following-
 - Natural vegetation or hedges
 - Fencing or bollards and chains
 - Changes in surface texture, curbs or paint.
- Where the riverbank has a smooth vertical wall or side, and no fencing is present, grab chains will be provided
- Where there is a build up of silt or debris this will be removed annually.

Actions 1, 2 & 4 Lifebuoys (old)



Actions 1,2 & 4 Lifebuoys (new)



Action 3 Inspection regime (old)

WATERBURY
WATER SUPPLY

WEEKLY REPORT OF LIFE SAVERS EQUIPMENT

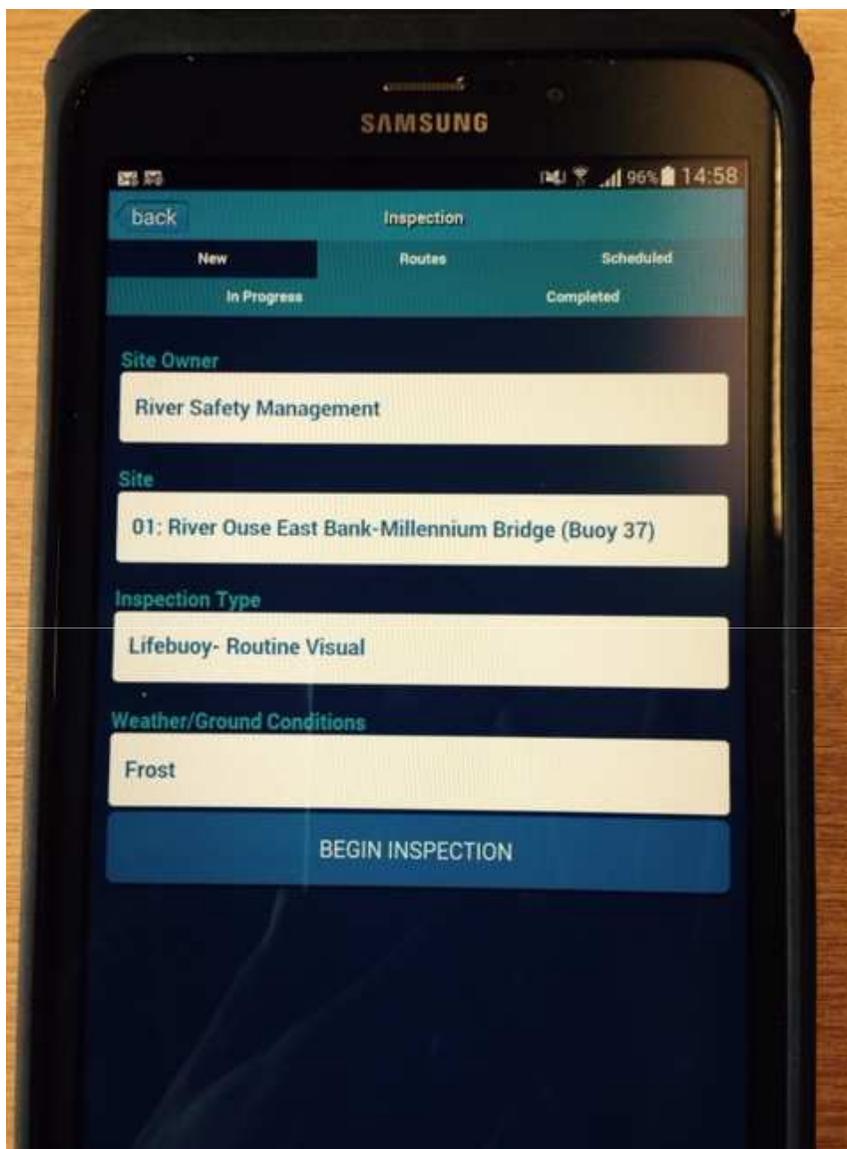
13/12/14 12/9/2014

NO	PIPER	LOCATION	DAMAGE NOTED	REPAIRS REQUIRED	REMARKS
1	Cuse	near the entrance station			
2	Cuse	near Bullock's			
3	Cuse	Level with Robertson			
4	Cuse	near Robertson Park			
4A	Cuse	near Robertson Golf			
	Cuse	near Robertson park			
		near Tealy sports			
6	Cuse	near foot of			
7	Cuse	near Westbridge			
8	Cuse	Skiddergate			
9	Cuse	Queen's South, Ormeau			
10	Cuse	bridge steps			
11	Cuse	Washington Road			
12	Cuse	West Esplanade			
13	Cuse	West Esplanade			
14	Cuse	West Esplanade			
15	Cuse	West Esplanade			
16	Cuse	St Georges field			
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35	Cuse	St Georges field			

PLEASE REPORT ANY MISSING OR DAMAGED TIMBER DEEP WITHIN 3 SWIMMING SIGNS

done
OAS 15/19



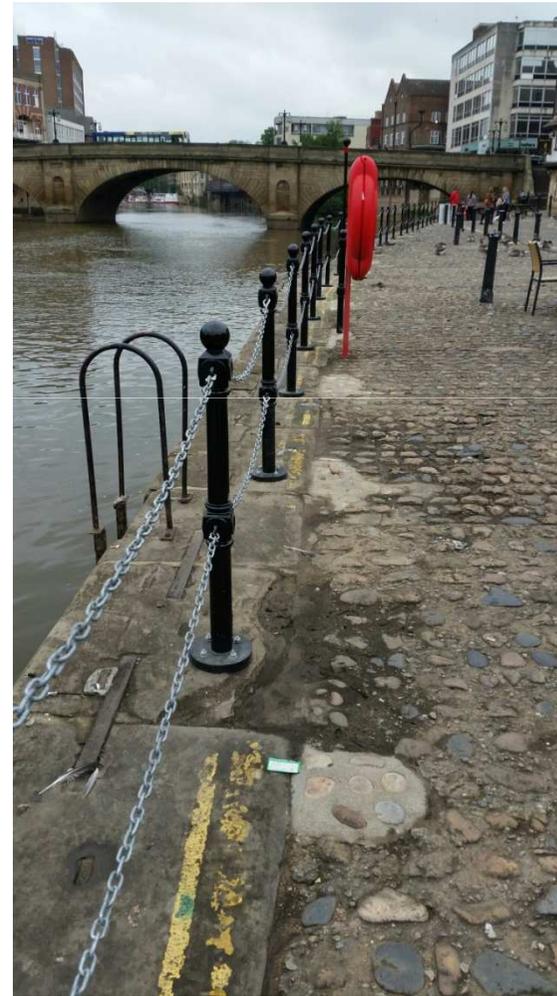
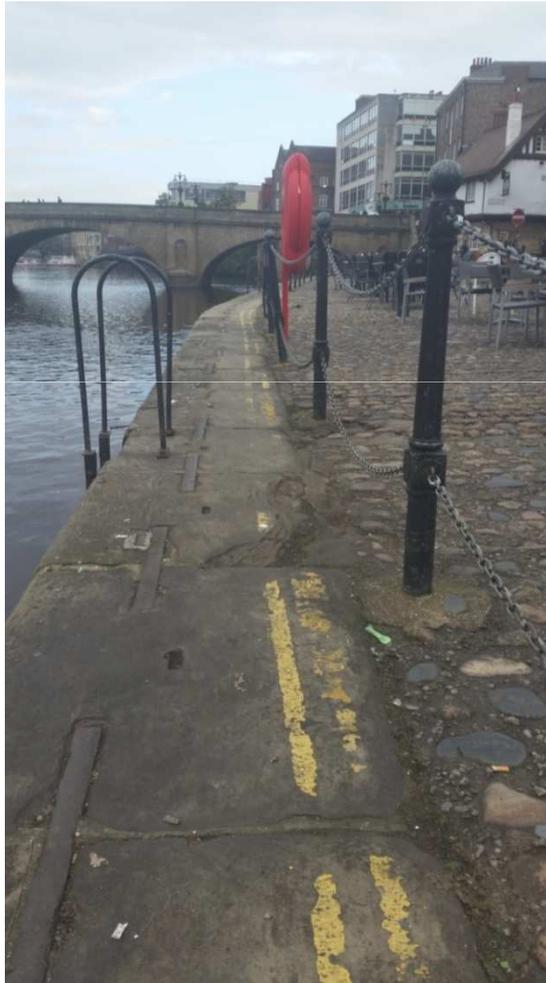


Action 3
inspection
regime
(new software
PSS live)

Actions 5 to 7 edge protection (new)



Actions 5 to 7 edge protection (old and new)



Actions 5 – 7 Edge protection (new)



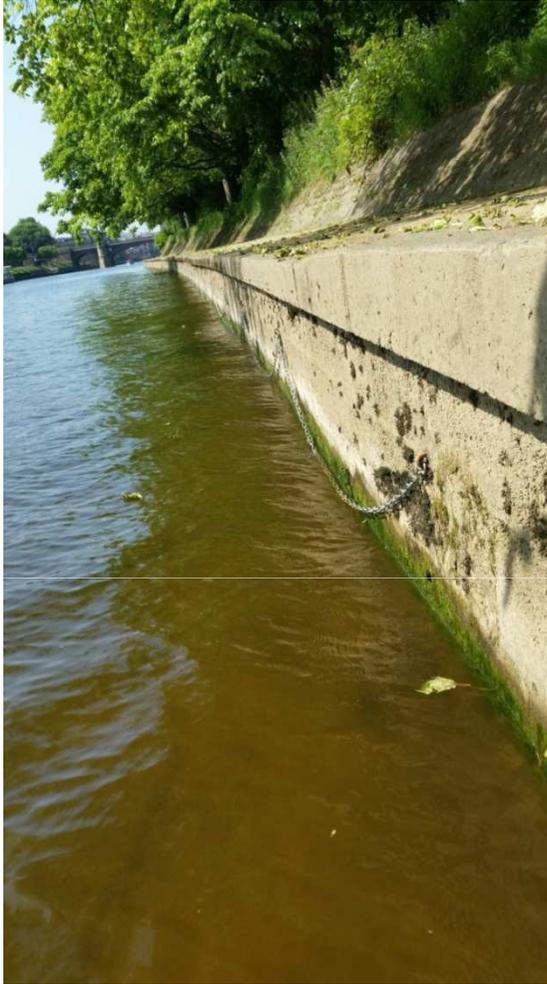
Actions 5 to 7 edge protection (increased)



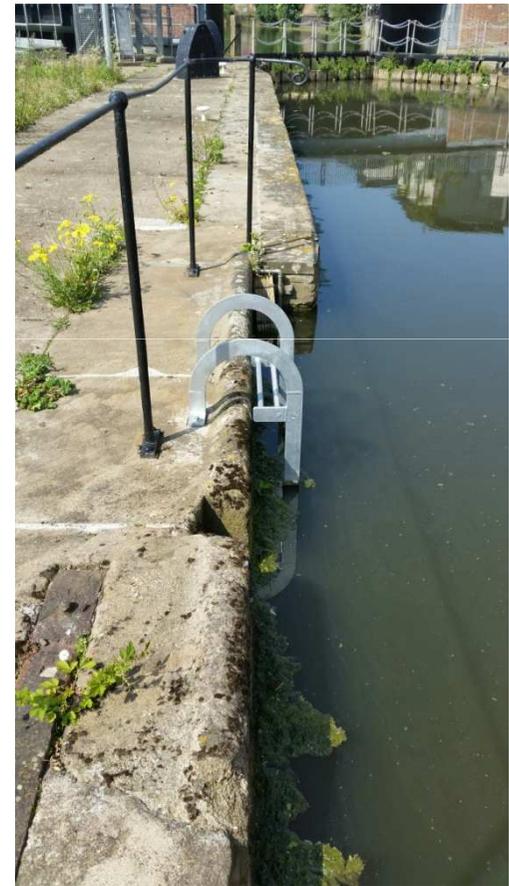
Actions 5 to 7 edge protection (increased)



Action 8 Grab chain (& depth audit)



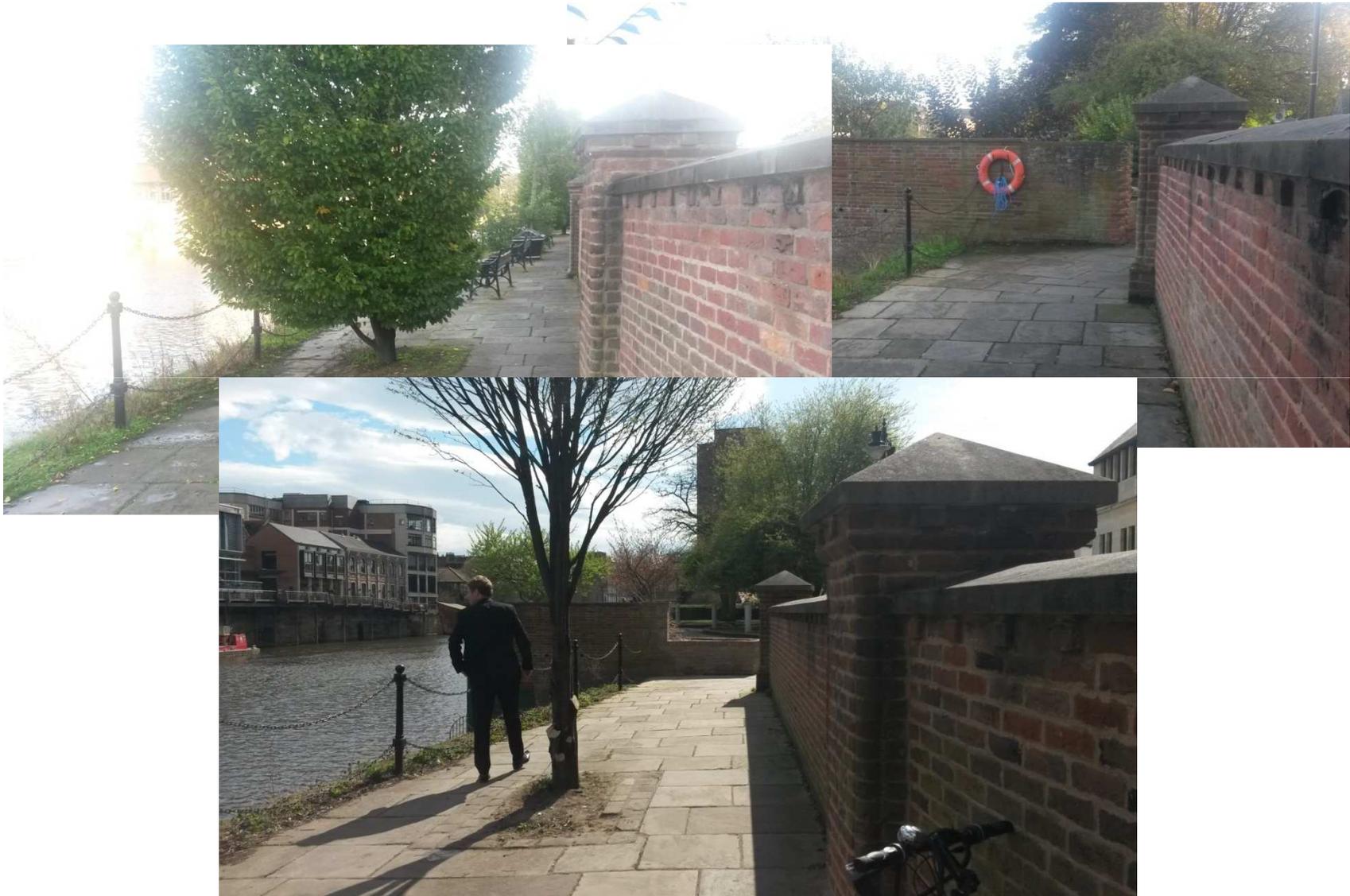
Action 8 Ladders



Action 9 (trip hazard)



Action 9 (sightlines)



Action 9 – (repairs)



Action 9

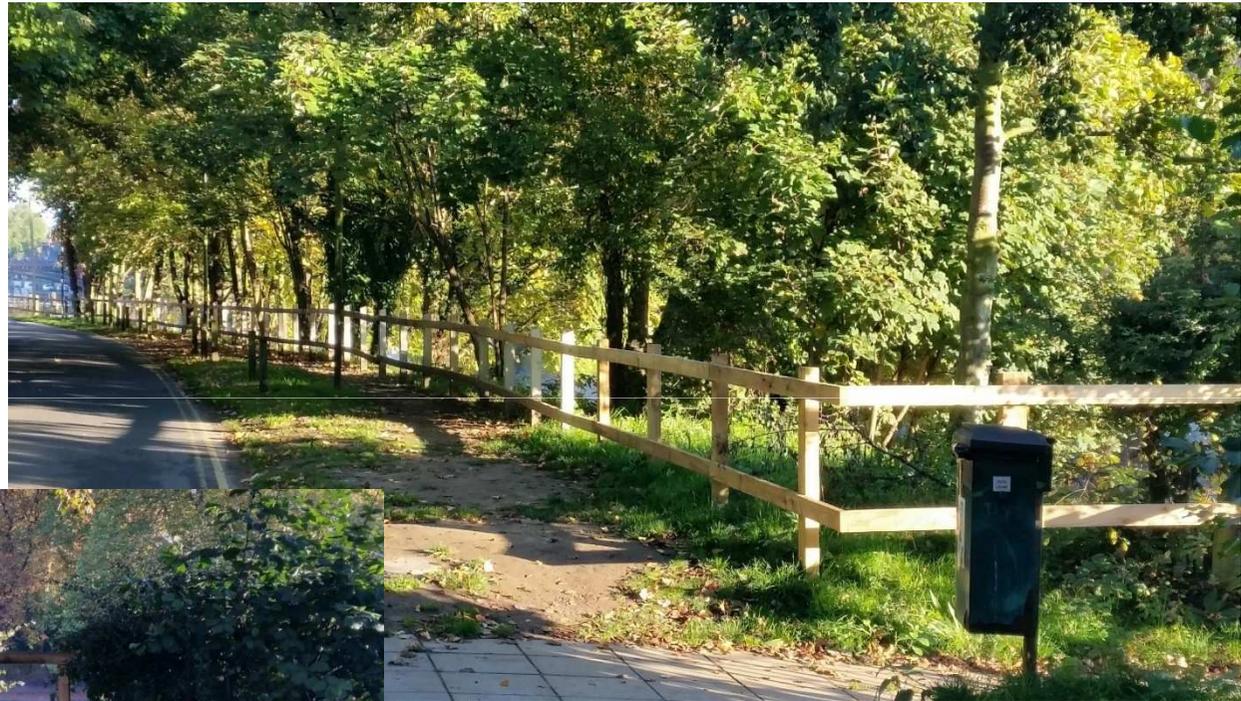
(refresh edge demarcation)



Action 9 (silt removal)



Action 9 new edge protection (following silt removal)



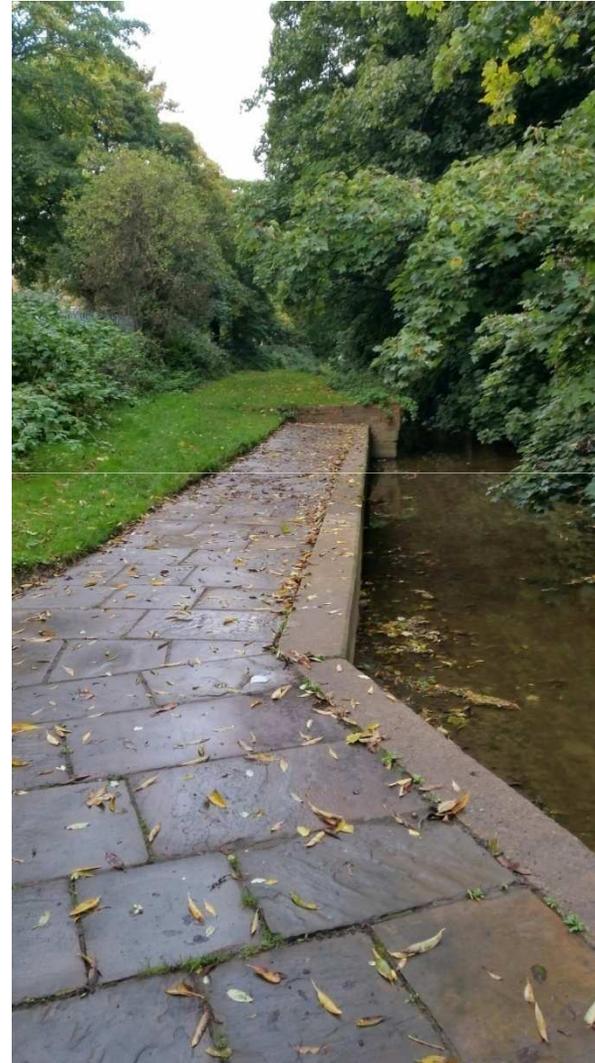
Action 9 (silt removal)



Action 9 (silt removal)



Action 9 (tidy up)



Action 9 (passive surveillance)



Action 11 Refresh slipway markings



Action 12 signage (old)



Action 12 signage (new)

CLIENT APPROVAL

ARTWORK PROOF

Client	City of York Council	Job No	NC5920	Signed	
File name		Designer		Print Name	
Date	13/08/2015	Page		Date	



10 (no) 210 x 300mm Aluminium Composite Material signs with riveted channels to rear



30 (no) 210 x 300mm Aluminium Composite Material signs with riveted channels to rear

Please check the artwork thoroughly, including any sizes, colours and spelling (including company contact details). We cannot be held responsible for any artwork errors once the job has been approved.

This drawing is the property of Signs Express and can only be used with our consent. Any unauthorised use of these designs will result in a £60 + VAT artwork charge. Whilst every effort is made to match your corporate colour scheme, if you are in any doubt about the colour matching please request to view our colour samples.

Artwork prepared by: Signs Express (York),

www.signsexpress.co.uk



Work in hand or planned

- Grab chains – Few additional short stretches for the River Ouse
- Post and chains refresh at Wellington Row
- Lifebuoys – five extra units to be installed
- Steps – 2 sets River Ouse Clifton area
- Published updated Safety Standards

Suggestions not being implemented

- Handrails to steps and ramps - navigation
- Protection from upper walk /cycleway e.g. Esplanade
- Grab chains where there are moorings or sports access is required e.g. Museum Gardens Esplanade
- Provision for significant flood events
- Emergency lighting under Ouse Bridge

Observations / comments / questions





Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee

29 June 2016

Report of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Commissioning Through Ward Budgets: Introductory Report

Summary

1. This report sets out information intended to help the scrutiny committee to decide whether to conduct a scrutiny review of commissioning at ward level. Should the committee decide to conduct a review a scoping document will be drawn up.

Recommendations

2. Members are asked to consider whether they wish to undertake a review on this topic, in light of the information given in this report, and, if so, to indicate in relation to which specific aspects, in order to inform a scoping report for submission to the next meeting.

Reason: To ensure compliance with scrutiny procedures and protocols.

Background

3. In January this year the scrutiny committee considered a report which provided an update on implementation of the Council's new approach to community engagement through working with local neighbourhoods and the establishment of revised ward committees. The report went on to the Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement (Deputy Leader) who:
 - Agreed criteria by which impact may be evaluated.
 - Proposed further input from scrutiny into future development of the Council's approach.
 - Asked for a further report in due course.
4. Under the Council's new approach to ward committees additional budgets were devolved to wards in 2015/16 to create a single pot that wards can use flexibly to help address their priorities and to develop

community initiatives which benefit local residents and reduce reliance on Council services. A total of £925k was devolved.

For 2016/17 a further £100k was added specifically to assist wards with local environmental schemes. The ward pots are made up of:

- The general “Ward Budget”.
 - The “Pride in York Fund”, made up of both one-off and recurring elements, for the purpose of supporting environmental initiatives.
 - The “Community Care Fund” aiming to support the prevention or delay of people needing to access formal care packages and statutory support.
5. The ward pot can be spent as wards see fit within Council policies and procedures. The budgets may be used to give grants or to buy services. Key fact sheets have been developed (see Annex).
6. In addition:
- A Ward Highways Programme was instituted partly localising the process for allocating highway improvements through the ward committees.
 - The grounds maintenance and cleansing activities in each ward were devolved to the ward.

Key issues with regard to commissioning from ward budgets

7. **Overall Spend:**

- In 2015/16 only £90k was spent from a budget of £475k, i.e. 19%. £385k was carried forward
- In 2016/17 (as at 10 June) only £61k has been committed from a budget, including the carry forward, of £910k, i.e. 6.7%
- Ward councillors indicate that aspects of spending ward funding can be challenging despite early changes to make it easier, e.g. dropping the grounds maintenance spreadsheet
- Could the process be made easier?

8. **Publicising budgets:**

- Members have got word out to their wards about the budgets available and how people can get involved in discussions using social media, residents’ email distribution lists, parish council websites, posters in the community, presentations at parish council meetings, and ward web pages.

- An 'Our City' insert has been used to provide information to residents.
- The budget commitments are shown on the Council's website: <https://www.york.gov.uk/wardfundingdecisions>; however,
- Given the slow rate of spending in some wards more clearly needs to be done to stimulate the interest and creativity of community groups to generate projects.

9. **Using ward budgets effectively to tackle local residents' priorities:**

- Targeted preventative projects have been undertaken for older and vulnerable residents, events and activities for children and young people, and grants to locally based community groups to make improvements to community facilities and the local environment; however,
- Schemes to date have focused in the main on capital purchases, things where the expenditure is clearly visible. Commissioning projects e.g. a service for a particular group has been much less common
- It is not clear to what extent information collected from ward teams and ward committees is helping to inform decisions about ward spending

10. **Evidence of impacts in terms of outcomes and benefits:**

- This is an area for development. We do not currently know whether we are getting value for money through ward spending or whether it is making a difference and addressing ward priorities
- Grant monitoring reports will be requested from grant recipients and this information will tell us about impact and outcomes. An annual review sheet has been developed which can be offered to wards. Will these help?

11. **Devolved grounds maintenance and cleansing activities:**

- Wards have now submitted their recommendations for their Grounds maintenance budget for 2016/17. Each ward has taken a variety of approaches to meeting the savings targets including community groups taking on planting schemes, looking at alternative solutions in the local neighbourhood. Will wards be able to commission sufficient local schemes to meet their needs?
- At forthcoming ward meetings maps will be provided showing current cleansing arrangements for each ward.

Ward members will be able to re-prioritise activity based on their local knowledge or priorities, or supplement cleansing activity from their ward budgets where they wish to (subject to deliverability).

12. Ward Highways Programme:

- Each ward has received the highways priority list for footways and carriageway works. Wards are identifying locations for potential schemes subject to feasibility, legality and budget availability. Improved information will now be provided to wards with regard to the schemes proposed in their areas from the main highways programme. The list of schemes for 17/18 will be available in late summer. Further information will also be developed to assist wards in having an idea about the likely scale of cost for various types of maintenance initiatives and a further member briefing will be arranged.

Summary

13. The new arrangements are embedding and, as with all new working practices, there are some areas of operation which throw up issues for consideration. The Executive Member has already indicated that he wishes to maintain some involvement in the evolution and development of our commissioning arrangements. We are now in the second municipal year of the revised Ward Committee arrangements and Members may wish to consider whether it would now be appropriate for the Scrutiny Committee to review achievements to date and ambitions for the future in relation to any of the following areas which still need refining:

- Process for spending ward funding;
- Project generation by community groups;
- Matching spend to residents' priorities;
- Assessing 'value for money' in terms of outcomes;
- Commissioning of local schemes.

14. If Members consider some further scrutiny would be appropriate at this stage in relation to any of the above or other areas of the new arrangements, a scoping report and timetable can be brought back to the next meeting, when the Committee could also consider whether it wishes to form a Task Group to undertake any further review work.

Annex

Annex 1-Ward fact sheets

Contact Details

Authors:	Chief Officer responsible for the report:	
Mary Bailey Head of Communities and Equalities	Sally Burns Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods	
Charlie Croft Assistant Director (Communities, Culture and Public Realm)	Report Approved: ✓	
	Date: 17 June 2016	
Specialist Implications Officers: None		
Wards Affected:	All	✓

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

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Factsheet 3 – Ward Budgets

This factsheet is designed to provide a script for ward councillors to use at their ward team to discuss how devolved ward budgets can address local issues.

The Council has decided to give wards more control of the money that it currently spends within its communities.

Each ward now has a budget made up of three components:

- A general ward fund
- The Community Care Fund
- The Pride in York Fund (annual fund and ‘one-off’ 2015/16 fund)

Adding the amounts together the ward will get a combined budget of:

- £x each year
- £xk in a one-off fund (when it’s gone it’s gone)

Here is what we are being asked to do as a ward:

- Familiarise ourselves and discuss the information about the ward that we have available to us:
 - Statistical information about the ward – Ward Profile
 - Local intelligence from partners in the ward team
 - Information gathered from residents of the ward through engagement
 - Information about the needs of elderly and vulnerable people in the ward
 - Information about environmental services in the ward
- Identify 3 to 4 ward priorities that would best address the needs of the ward’s residents through partnership working
- Invite local community and voluntary groups to bid for ward funding that would address one or more ward priorities and / or
- Commission local community and voluntary groups, or a specialist organisation, to deliver a project that addresses one or more ward priority
- Purchase Council services that will address one or more ward priority (see list).

It is up to us how we use our budget; however, we will be asked to bear in mind the purposes of the Community Care and Pride in York funds:



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The **Community Care Fund**: This encourages us to look at ways that could prevent or delay the need for elderly and vulnerable people to access formal care packages and support or, if formal care is already in place, delay or prevent the need for this to increase.

We are well placed to know where elderly or vulnerable people live in this ward and we can help to identify and facilitate community activity that can ensure they receive the support they need to remain independent for longer. Current feedback has shown that support in the following areas can help with this:

- Reducing social isolation and loneliness
- Prevention of falls
- Nutrition
- Transport
- Practical support and handy person services
- Support for carers

We are asked to identify a ward priority that would best address our elderly and vulnerable residents. Examples of initiatives that ward funding could support include:

- Forming a volunteer group to ensure older and/or vulnerable people have access to a regular nutritious meal
- Supporting affordable and accessible transport options so people are able to access services
- Providing a grant to a local group or Parish Council in order to provide an additional service for a community or group of residents.

The **Pride in York Fund**: This fund is there to improve the local environment and street level issues in the ward. Examples of initiatives that ward funding could support include:

- Helping a community group to take on management of a local project e.g. looking after a piece of local open space
- Undertaking a local clean-up
- Changing the planting or other arrangements to make a space more attractive and easier to maintain in the future.



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The one-off budget for 2015/16 is there to provide grants to partners, community groups and voluntary organisations to develop street-level environment initiatives that benefit the community and help reduce the reliance on Council services. When it's gone, it's gone.

It has been allocated to wards, based on current grounds maintenance spending by the Council in the ward. The reason for this is that the Council is having to making savings from its grounds maintenance budgets over the next few years. This affects the tasks that the Council can carry out in the wards. Naturally, the more activity that takes place in the ward, the bigger the savings that need to be made. So, wards with more current activity get a bigger share of this budget to help develop appropriate community projects.

Wards will be consulted about the current grounds maintenance activity in their ward, so that they can state their priorities and use this budget effectively in the light of tasks that the Council can no longer carry out (See Fact Sheet 3). There will be support from a relevant Council officer to develop ward projects.

How will we go about spending the money? We will do it either by:

- inviting groups and organisations to bid for a grant, or
- directly commissioning local groups to carry out projects that the ward team has identified will address ward priorities, or
- a mix of these two options.

Details of how groups and individuals can access and influence how the funding is allocated will be shown on posters locally, through social media and online on the ward web pages. If you wish to use funding application forms to enable organisations to bid for grants, the application pack is available on the Communities and Equalities team web page and on request.



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Do's and Don'ts

- The annual ward budget may be used to give grants or to buy services or a mix of these two options
- The Ward Budget can be spent throughout the financial year.
- The one-off ward York in Pride budget may only be used to give grants
- Grants may only be given to organisations based in the ward unless there is a specialist need which cannot be met locally
- Grants may only be given to organisations will be from the voluntary sector, community initiatives, residents' associations, parish councils (where they have a stake in supporting a project), community halls, sports and other clubs. They must be constituted and hold a bank account or have a sponsor organisation that can hold funds on their behalf
- Ward budgets must be spent in accordance with Council policies and procedures ensuring that the Council's best value and statutory obligations are met and that projects are legal and feasible
- Initially, where a ward wishes to buy services it will be from a Council department, subject to the ability of those departments to supply additional services at an economic cost
- A range of local services options will be developed to guide wards in this regard. This list will grow and develop as the requirements of wards become clearer and will be expanded to include purchasing options outside of the Council under the Council's framework agreements
- Ward budgets must not be used in any way that increases the Council's revenue costs
- If a commissioning route is taken, decisions on funding allocations will be recorded at ward team meetings on a commissioning pro-forma available from the Communities and Equalities Team, and shared via ward web pages, posters and social media.
- Ward councillors will need to apply due declarations of interests when considering applications.
- Details of how the Ward Budget is allocated will be outlined on the ward web pages.



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Making an application:

Details of how groups and individuals can access and influence how the funding is allocated will be shown on posters locally, through social media and online on the ward web pages. The application pack is available on the Communities and Equalities team web page and on request.

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Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee – Workplan 2016/17

Dates	Work Programme
29 June 2016 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of the Exec Mbr for Environment – Update on Priorities & Challenges (confirmed) 2. Report on Riverside Improvements (Dave Meigh) 3. Scoping Report on Ward Funding & Commissioning Review (Mary Bailey/Charlie Croft) 4. Workplan 2016/17
18 July 2016 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of Exec Mbr for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods – Update on Priorities & Challenges (conf'd) 2. CYC Year End Financial & Performance Monitoring Report (Patrick Looker) 3. SYP Bi-Annual Performance Report & an Update on Drug Related Crime & Disorder (Jane Mowat) 4. Attendance of North Yorkshire Police (Deputy Commander Charlotte Bloxham - attendance confirmed) 5. Housing Allocations Policy Development Review Draft Final Report 6. Update Report on the Housing & Planning Bill (S Waddington) 7. Workplan 2016/17
21 Sept 2016 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CYC First Qtr Finance & Performance Monitoring Report (Patrick Looker) 2. Update on the work of AVANTE (Alcohol, Violence & Night-Time Economy) (Tanya Lyon) 3. Workplan 2016/7
16 Nov 2016 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of North Yorks Fire & Rescue Service 2. Update on the work of the Substance Misuse Team (Leigh Bell / Sharon Stoltz) 3. Workplan 2016/7
25 Jan 2017 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CYC Second Qtr Finance & Performance Monitoring Report (Patrick Looker) 2. Safer York Partnership Bi-Annual Performance Report (Jane Mowat) 3. Safer York Partnership Update on Domestic Violence (Jane Mowat) 4. Update on the Community Safety Unit (Jane Mowat) 5. Workplan 2016/7
15 March 2017 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CYC Third Qtr Finance & Performance Monitoring Report (Patrick Looker) 2. Workplan 2016/7
17 May 2017 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Workplan 2017/18

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