

## Report of the Deputy Leader

### York Central consultation

We continue to make significant progress on York Central by working in partnership with Network Rail, the National Railway Museum (NRM), and the Homes and Communities Agency. Our joint plan will deliver new homes, new jobs, and new community facilities as well as a chance to further develop the NRM.

The Executive meeting on 13th July will consider an update on the progress of the project, as well as consider Heads of Terms for a legal partnership agreement between the York Central Partners to enable further progress with delivery of the project.

We intend to continue to work closely with local residents to get the plans right. That will involve further consultation on draft plans, including on the key aspect of access to the site.

### Business Improvement District

The BID is continuing its work to bring city-centre businesses together and deliver economic and environmental benefits.

The BID has recently appointed the company Momentum to review York's existing wayfinding provision and make recommendations for improvements. Executive agreed in May 2015 to release £50,000 in funding for a contribution to the scheme.

The BID teams are also taking advantage of the long daylight hours to carry out lots of deep cleansing work. Recently there has been activity on Coney Street and the city screen area, with the removal of chewing gum delivering a considerable improvement.

### Flood resilience

Earlier this year, Council received the report and recommendations of the independent flood inquiry. Executive set up the inquiry after the devastating floods of Boxing Day 2015 to ensure that we and relevant partners understood what had happened and how we could act to reduce the likelihood of similar events in future.

In June, Executive approved measures to create greater community resilience in the event of future flooding and other emergencies in York. We have decided to invest £122,000 to deliver this. The programme will encompass a number of work areas, including:

- Establishing a Flood Resilience Role
- Restructuring the Flood Risk Manager function
- Enhancing the Council's Emergency Planning function
- The Ready for Anything programme
- Hosting a Flood Defence Foundation Degree student.

The above work and investment is complementary to the Environment Agency's new investment in York's flood defences, including £17m for improvements to the Foss Barrier and £45m for wider flood defences across the city.

The Executive Member for the Environment also recently considered an update on York's 5-year Flood Plan, which noted progress on the Environment Agency's investment programme. Cllr Waller will also monitor progress on joint work between CYC and the EA arising from the independent inquiry's recommendations.

### Older Persons' Accommodation Programme

The Older Persons' Accommodation Programme seeks to address the needs of York's ageing population, making the best use of York's existing Extra Care Housing by making it more accessible for people with higher care needs, and replacing the council's out-dated Older People's Homes with a wide range of more modern accommodation which meets modern care standards.

Work is underway on the former Burnholme school site, where our plans will deliver a new care home. Along with the care home, there will also be a community and library building, a health centre, and housing, while sports and play facilities will be retained.

Executive has also appointed a developer and operator for the Extra Care facility at Oakhaven. This follows a procurement exercise for the

construction and operation which began in 2016. I look forward to seeing further progress on the site.

### Local Plan

A key priority for the joint administration is to progress a Local Plan for York.

As Councillors are aware, progress on the Local Plan was affected by the Ministry of Defence's sad announcement last year that it intended to close Imphal Barracks, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, and Towthorpe Lines. I have written to the Secretary of State for Defence to express my surprise and concern at this news, and to seek further information about how the closures will be carried out and what work has been done to understand their implications.

However, it is important to continue to make progress with the Local Plan now that officers have been able to complete analysis on the potential of the sites for future housing allocations. The Local Plan Working Group met yesterday (10th July) to consider an update on the Local Plan, and I am pleased that the Group has agreed that officers produce an updated draft plan for consultation, based on the recommendations of Executive (to be held 13th July).

It is important to give residents and local groups such as parish councils a full and meaningful opportunity to comment on the draft proposals. We will therefore carry out a further consultation process this year, and engage with residents to seek their views before any changes and submission to the Secretary of State.

### Armed Forces Day

This year's Armed Forces Day was celebrated on Saturday 24th June. The day is an opportunity for the nation to show appreciation for the contribution made by all those who serve, or who have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

CYC joined many other local authorities in flying the flag at the Railway War Memorial outside West Offices throughout the week building up to the day. I was honoured to attend as the Council's Armed Forces Champion, along with the Lord Mayor, the Leader, and the Chief

Executive, along with many other representatives from the Council and partner organisations.

### Ward Committees

Member briefings, both groups and individual, have been offered from April onwards with 25 of 47 councillors attending. These are designed to update councillors in relation to the new process and systems that have been introduced.

Some data about how the system is operating is copied below.

- Ward Budget spend 1 April - 28 June 2017: £68k actual spend (compared to £52k by June 2016) and £70k grounds maintenance charges = £134k projected spend to date. I am keen to support wards to spend their budgets effectively and am happy to meet Councillors individually or in groups to facilitate this.
- Number of ward committee grants approved for release to community groups to date: 39
- Ward Committee meetings since April: 10
- New Highways scheme ideas sent through for feasibility: 33

If Members have any questions on the content of this report or would like further information on other issues then please email me on:

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Cllr Keith Aspden

Deputy Leader of City of York Council