CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 6th October, 2011, starting at 6.45 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr David Horton) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD	BISHOPTHORPE WARD
Simpson-Laing	Galvin
CLIFTON WARD	**DERWENT WARD**
Douglas King Scott	Brooks
DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD	**FISHERGATE WARD**
Hodgson Reid Semlyen	D'Agorne Taylor
FULFORD WARD	**GUILDHALL WARD**
Aspden	Looker Watson
HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD	**HESLINGTON WARD**
Cuthbertson Firth Richardson	Levene
HEWORTH WARD	**HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD**
Boyce Potter	Ayre

HOLGATE WARD	HULL ROAD WARD
Alexander Crisp Riches	Barnes Fitzpatrick
HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK WARD	**MICKLEGATE WARD**
Hyman Orrell Runciman	Fraser Gunnell Merrett
OSBALDWICK WARD	**RURAL WEST YORK WARD**
Warters	Gillies Healey Steward
SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON WITHOUT WARD	**STRENSALL WARD**
Cunningham-Cross McIlveen Watt	Doughty Wiseman
WESTFIELD WARD	**WHELDRAKE WARD**
Jeffries Burton Williams	Barton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Funnell.

Cllr Scott sent apologies, indicating that he would be arriving late at the meeting. He arrived at the meeting at approx 8.10pm - agenda item 8 (Scrutiny Annual Report).

30. 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:

Councillor	Agenda Item	Description of Interest
Merrett	6 - Cabinet recommendations (re Minute 40(iv) - use of contingency fund for St Clements Hall)	Member of St Clements Hall

The following **personal** interests were declared:

Councillor	Agenda Item	Description of Interest
Alexander	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of GMB Union
Barnes	12(i) – Notice of Motion re Health & Social Care Bill 13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Healthcare employee Member of Unison
Crisp	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of retired section of Unison
Fraser	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of retied section of Unison and Unite (ACTS/TGWU Sections)
Gunnell	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet	Sister of a member of the GMB Union

	Leader, relating to Union officers	
Hodgson	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of Unison and the PCS Union
King	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Father of a union representative
Levene	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of Unite
Merrett	9 – Report of Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services	As a parent, and a governor of two York schools
Richardson	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of Unite
Riches	12(i) – Notice of Motion re Health & Social Care Bill	Member of Governing Council of York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Semlyen	12(ii) – Notice of Motion re energy conservation / installation of photovoltaic panels	In receipt of feed-in tariff payments from solar panels and occasional income from recommending solar panels
Simpson-Laing	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of Unison
Williams	13 – Questions (ii) & (iii) to Cabinet Leader, relating to Union officers	Member of Unite and Unison
Wiseman	12(i) – Notice of Motion re Health & Social Care Bill	Public Governor of York Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 30 June 2011 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 4 August 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

32. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor announced that tickets had sold out for the John Barry concert to be held at the Barbican on 30th October.

33. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor announced that one member of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

Andy Chase spoke on behalf of York Welfare Group, with reference to the Council's consultation on the future of Elderly People's Homes (EPHs). He highlighted two areas of concern; namely, the proposal to reduce the overall number of places in EPHs, and the potential privatisation or outsourcing of services. He expressed the hope that the choices of those in residential care would be respected and their concerns taken into account.

34. PETITIONS

Under Standing Order 7, petitions were presented by:

(i) Cllr Hodgson, on behalf of residents of Dringhouses and Woodthorpe ward, requesting that the Turf Tavern pub not be closed.[1]

(ii) Cllr D'Agorne, on behalf of residents of Fishergate, seeking an extension of the 20 mph zone in their area.[2]

RESOLVED: That the above petitions be referred to the Cabinet or appropriate committee.

Action Required
1-2: Schedule items on Forward Plan for suitable meetings and keep relevant Members updated on progress SS

35. REPORT OF CABINET LEADER AND CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

A written report was received from the Cabinet Leader, Cllr James Alexander, on the work of the Cabinet.

A Questions

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

(i) From Cllr D'Agorne:
"Will this programme [Reinvigorate York] include reviewing all highway signing that detracts from views of the walls, bars and other historic features of the city, and can you assure us that additional cycle parking will be provided when railings are removed and outdated 'butterfly' (wheelbender) stands will be replaced with Sheffield stands?"

The Leader replied:
"This programme will include reviewing all highway signing that detracts from views of the walls, bars and other historic features of the city. I have not had any detailed discussions yet about cycle parking but I am happy to discuss this with Sir Ron Cooke."

(ii) From Cllr Cuthbertson:
"Given there will no longer be any capital receipt from Union Terrace car and coach park to fund Reinvigorate York, has the project been scaled down?"

The Leader replied:
"A partial capital receipt of £2m can no longer be committed to this scheme as the sale is not proceeding. However the ambition remains the same. Sir Ron Cooke is confident a lot can be achieved by using existing council budgets more wisely. We would like to see further investment in the city centre. We will have more of an idea of the financial position

for 2012/13 when the government announces its grant settlement in December."

(iii) From Cllr Watt:

"Will the Council Leader accept my advice that it is unhelpful to service personnel to have their predicament 'politicised' by statements on the Covenant such as "Conservative Liberal-Democrat Cuts" and reference to pressures resulting from government policy to increase the size of the Territorial Army?"

The Leader replied:

"I was repeating the words said to me by military personnel I have met on a number of occasions since becoming council leader. Morale in the armed forces is not great when a government who promised to help the armed forces are sacking personnel on active duty. The cuts are coming from the government and that government is a coalition of the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats. The Territorial Army will increase significantly in size and some members of the Territorial Army are reticent to declare to employers or potential employers the good work they do in the military because employers see this as a burden rather than a benefit. The military and the government has recognised this issue and the Council should play its part in also helping employers realise the benefits of employing members of the TA. The Community Covenant scheme goes some way towards this and this has the full backing of the military, the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government and I would like to say this council."

(iv) From Cllr Barton:

"Before issuing his proposals on the Community Covenant will the Leader seek advice and guidance from those Members of the Council, regardless of their political affiliations, who have run businesses and at the same time served as an active member of the Territorial Army?"

The Leader replied:

"It has been agreed that group leaders will take the issue to a meeting of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee and the document will be based on government guidelines. I would suggest this input would be welcome and that the conduit for this is through respective group leaders before it comes to Staffing and Urgency."

(v) From Cllr D'Agorne:
"Given the possibility that the additional funding will not be consolidated in the base budget, is consideration being given to showing this on council tax information so that residents are made aware of the long term hidden cut they face?"

The Leader replied:
"I have no issue with an explanation of the 2.5% last year being included in the information sent to residents and the same information on this year if required."

(vi) From Cllr Watt:
"Is the Council Leader aware that the council tax freeze policy was in the Conservative Manifesto for last year's general election, was not Labour policy and that there was never any doubt that this policy would also be Conservative Council Group policy; therefore, it is disingenuous for him to suggest it was his idea – particularly when council tax all but doubled under the last Labour government?"

The Leader replied:
"The council tax freeze policy for York was first called for and raised in the public domain in The Press on 20th December 2010. I wrote to all group leaders asking them to freeze council tax in their budget proposals. All groups did so. Council tax is decided by local councils and for the last 8 of the 13 years of the Labour government Labour did not set council tax in York. In the last 4 years your group held the balance of power and supported any increases during those years."

The time limit having expired for this item, written answers were circulated after the meeting to the remaining question as follows:

(vii) From Cllr Watt:
"In view of the Cabinet Leader's concern that money might be better allocated to promoting jobs for young people, will he consider reducing his cabinet by one post in order to fund a council appointment of an additional young person?"

Reply:
It is curious that the Conservative group, the so called party of law and order, does not support a Cabinet Member for

Crime and Community Safety. It is even more curious that other Conservative councils who first pioneered having such a cabinet position disagree with them. And even more curious still that instead of a local cabinet member for crime and community safety they would prefer a police commissioner who is paid £122,000. I would prefer to see 8 young people employed than that waste.

(viii) From Cllr D'Agorne:

"Are any current apprenticeships facing redundancy and what are the prospects for retention at the end of their training?"

Reply:

None that I am aware of as we have been actively recruiting apprenticeships. 36 have been recruited so far this financial year. The skills and experience apprenticeships receive will set them in good stead when seeking employment either at CYC or elsewhere. However, it is difficult to say what retention is likely when we are still receiving unprecedented cuts from the Conservative Liberal Democrat government which is leading to job losses.

(ix) From Cllr Healey:

"If the Labour Party Budget amendment proposed in February of this year had been successful, how many apprenticeships would this have funded?"

Reply:

You are anticipating that the Conservative amendment agreed by Liberal Democrat and Conservative councillors was mutually exclusive to the Labour amendment. This was not the case. The Labour amendment passed in June increased apprenticeship funding awarded by the Conservative amendment by 15%. This was a manifesto pledge. 36 apprenticeships have been created so far through the total funding awarded.

(x) From Cllr Galvin:

Relating to the first sentence of the fourth paragraph under the heading 'Increasing Jobs and Economic Growth', does the Leader support the Shadow Chancellor's call for increasing the Nation's Debt as a solution to the economic problems of the country?"

Reply:
I support the Shadow Chancellor's call for a tax cut in reducing VAT to stimulate the economy, for a bank bonus tax to pay for getting young people into work and spending in the economy and I support the Shadow Chancellor calling for growth to be considered more than austerity through slower reductions in public expenditure. The IMF backed this latter point this week in statements referring to a possible double dip recession.

(xi) From Cllr D'Agorne:
"How will demolishing a small toilet block on Parliament Street without providing some other means of screening traffic intrusion benefit the city centre economy?"

Reply:
Toilet blocks do not exist to screen traffic. Replacing this building with a performance space is under consideration. However, I will feed in your comments into the Reinvigorate York initiative.

(xii) From Cllr Healey:
"What advice has the Leader received from Officers as to the effect that Monks Cross 2 will have on the likelihood of the Piccadilly redevelopment starting in this Council term?"

Reply
None.

(xiii) From Cllr Watt:
"Rather than just fostering a climate that has led to interest in hotel applications and retail opportunities, will the Cabinet leader agree to brief the Labour members of the planning Committees that it would help York's economic growth and the creation of jobs if they adopted a more positive attitude to approving planning applications for such developments?"

Reply:
I am not sure where the Conservative Group are coming from on this. First of all you and your Government want to protect the green belt, then you want presumed consent for development, then you want local communities to have a choice. I will not interfere with the planning process due to its quasi-judicial nature.

(xiv) From Cllr D'Agorne:

"What is the expected timescale for the Community Stadium project, given that a public inquiry is required with it being a departure from the Local Plan and involves council owned land?"

Reply:

It is at the discretion of the Secretary for State, whether the application will be 'called-in' and a Public Inquiry held. It would take between 30 to 36 months to procure and complete the scheme. If there were to be an external intervention beyond the direct control of the council (for example a call-in Public Inquiry or Judicial Review) this would add time to the completion date, as it would with any major development scheme.

(xv) From Cllr Galvin:

"Is the Leader fully aware of the alternative proposals for a Community Stadium and if so can he update Council on any information he has?"

Reply:

I can update Council that Oakgate have submitted their planning application and this is live. The first alternative application has not been submitted. An e-mail from John Guildford indicated a third plan but no detail has been submitted. Should these plans come to fruition the planning process can give consideration and these applications will be publicly available for scrutiny.

(xvi) From Cllr Healey:

"Could the Council Leader expand on his statement 'Any concerns should be evidence-based, as should the case for retail expansion at Monks Cross'?"

Reply:

Concerns have been raised about the proposed retail development before the evidence to quantify or nullify fears have been published. I think it is important to give a view on the facts rather than fear or a concern for market share rather than a growing market.

(xvii) From Cllr D'Agorne:

"What is the expected timescale for this project [York Central] to come forward if a major retail development at

Monks Cross is given approval and will the plan for comparison retail within York Central now be dropped?"

Reply:
Impetus on this development has increased since Labour took control of the council and we have strategically purchased an area of land to progress the development. I am keen for the proposed development to go to market in the next couple of years. It is important we get this right rather than progress at haste. Moreover this scheme has had a long history. I am uncertain what is referred to as 'comparison retail' but an element of retail on York Central will be required to make the financial model stack up.

(xviii) From Cllr Healey:
"What are the costs of the 'free' Wi-fi scheme in Y1 and 2 and what benefits does he envisage for York?"

Reply:
The pilot scheme will cost £30k from existing budgets. Once up and running businesses are to be consulted on whether this should expand across the city centre and options for funding will be considered. So far I have received only positive responses and the retail strategy group are very much in favour. Benefits include attractiveness to shoppers, visitors and businesses, uniqueness compared to other UK and European cities, opportunities for IP TV as part of a York television channel and a change in the way we deliver services such as CCTV network or reporting in grotspots.

(xix) From Cllr D'Agorne:
"Can the Leader assure us that only organisations on Ed Milliband's 'good companies' list will be allowed advertising space?"

Reply:
Not when I do not control all advertising space.

(xx) From Cllr Healey:
"What evidence does the Leader have his assertion that there could be 'a company to run the front homepage, to pay for maintenance costs and for the Council to receive a cut of advertising revenue'?"

Reply:
Two media companies saying they are interested in this model and being a homepage provider.

(xxi) From Cllr Runciman:
"How does the Cabinet Leader intend to judge the success of the Fairness Commission?"

Reply:
Through the quality of input and insight into the budget process and through the long term outcomes of creating a fairer society in York. This will be difficult due to the likelihood of poverty increasing due to Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government policy. In York 1,950 of York's poorest people will lose £50 a month due to housing benefit changes, homelessness will increase and York will be unaffordable for those on housing benefit by 2026. The work of the Fairness Commission and this administration may have to focus on reducing the effect of such policies.

(xxii) From Cllr Aspden:
"How many residents attended the public meetings of the Fairness Commission?"

Reply:
The Fairness Commission had approximately 200 people attending the public meetings despite two meetings being held on two record-breaking hot days of 30th September and 1st October.
In addition, the commission is expecting more than 500 web and postcard responses and staff suggestions by the closing date.
I am told the final meeting last night was well-attended by young people.

(xxiii) From Cllr Firth:
"The Cabinet Leader says he believes in an open Council, can he say why none of the answers to Freedom of Information requests were published on the Council website between the beginning of August and the beginning of October?"

Reply:
When the Council responds to a requestor with information, the Council waits 28 days before publishing the request and

answer on the website. This is to allow the requestor the statutory timeframe to come back and ask for further clarification or information. All FOIs are live.
I would like to draw your attention to FOI request Y3538, attachment 13. This email to Councillor Carol Runciman explains that the previous Liberal Democrat administration she was deputy leader for had encouraged officers to progress the sale proposal.

(xxiv) From Cllr D'Agorne

"Can the names of council contractors and consultants be published online in the interests of transparency?"

Reply:
They already are when over £500.

(xxv) From Cllr Hyman:

"Why did the Cabinet Leader decide to delay the publication of his entire report to Council instead of producing a separate update on the Community Covenant, after the Group Leaders' meeting?"

Reply:
As I explained to group leaders it was an integral part of my report and I wanted to ensure that the community covenant issue that I have been working on did not look like an afterthought. I also thought it was important that group leaders discussed the issue and the time for that was the scheduled leaders' meeting on the Friday after the report publishing date.

(xxvi) From Cllr Orrell:

"Can the Cabinet Leader say which items from his party's manifesto he believes have been delivered?"

Reply:
1. *Seeking to increase apprenticeships*
2. *Holding an annual business conference*
3. *Reversing £1m of Conservative Liberal Democrat cuts*
4. *Scrapping a £1.4m new council office in Acomb*
5. *Creating a high level post to tackle crime and community safety*
6. *Setting up the independent Fairness Commission*

We are currently working towards:

1. *Delivering more affordable housing through increasing housing targets in the LDF*
2. *Supporting 20mph speed limits in residential areas*
3. *Increasing the use of community payback to ensure those responsible for vandalism clean up their mess*
4. *Increasing the amount we recycle through committing capital to new recycling boxes and revenue to a new promotional campaign*
5. *Advertising assisted waste collection services to elderly residents through the council tax statements*

Cllr Orrell can look forward to the delivery of the remainder of our manifesto pledges, as well as a number of other priorities that will emerge, over the course of this administration.

B Cabinet Recommendations

Council Plan

Cllr Alexander moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, the following recommendation contained in the Officer report at page 48 of the additional Council papers circulated on 30 September:

"[That Council] approve the Council Plan and the priorities it sets for the next four years."

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

RESOLVED: That the above recommendation in respect of the Council Plan be approved.[1]

Capital Programme

Cllr Alexander then moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 26 of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 July 2011:

(i) That Council approve the re-stated 2011/12 to 2015/16 capital programme, as summarised in Table 4 at paragraph 37 of the report and detailed in Annex 1. [2]

(ii) That Council approve the use of additional resources in the form of prudential borrowing at a value of £65k, to fund the overspend on Clements Hall. [2]

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations contained in Minute 26 of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 July 2011 be approved. [2]

Cllr Alexander then moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 40 of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 September:

"That Council approve:

(i) The net adjustments of an increase of £5.436k in 2011/12 and a reduction of £3.849k in 2012/13, as detailed in the report and contained in Annex A. [3]

(ii) The increase of £38k in the Travellers' electricity units scheme, funded by prudential borrowing and supported by existing revenue budgets (paragraph 15). [3]

(iii) The addition to the capital programme of the Howe Hill Hostel scheme at £50k, to be funded from RTB capital receipts not committed elsewhere in the housing capital programme (paragraph 16). [3]

(iv) The use of the £300k contingency fund to fund the following schemes, totalling £170k: [3]

St Clements Hall - £30k (para 23)
29 Castlegate - £35k (para 24)
Decent Homes standard - £69k (paras 25-27)
Fishergate Postern - £20k (paras 28-29)
Castle Mills Car Park - £16k (para 30)" [3]

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in Minute 40 of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 September 2011 be approved. [3]

National Planning Policy Framework

Cllr Alexander then moved, and Cllr Merrett seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 53 of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 October 2011:

(i) That Council approve the attached response to the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework, as amended by the changes recommended by the LDF Working Group at their meeting on 3 October 2011, for submission to the Department of Communities & Local Government. [4]

(ii) That Council delegate to the Director of City Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Strategy, authority to make any changes to the submission that are necessary as a result of the above recommendation. [4]

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in Minute 53 of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 October 2011 be approved. [4]

Action Required

1. Take any action necessary to implement the agreed Council Plan	LH
2.Take any action necessary to finalise the revised Capital Programme, including the use of prudential borrowing to fund the overspend on St Clements Hall	KB
3. Make the agreed changes to the Capital Programme, including the use of £300k contingency funding	RB
4. Submit the agreed response to the NPPF consultation, after making any required amendments with Cabinet Member	MG

36. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

As Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee, Cllr Jeffries moved, and Cllr Brooks seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 21 of the meeting of that committee held on 26 July 2011:

"(i) That Council amend the Council procedure rules to allow for four rather than five motions to be routinely presented to Council.

(ii) That Council remove the following protocols and policies from the Constitution:
Protocol on report writing
Electronic Communications policy
Whistle blowing policy
Protocol on Councillor Working Groups.
Anti Money Laundering Guidance. [1]

(iii) That Council increase the Chief Finance Officer's authority to write off debts to sums up to and including £30,000. [1]

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in Minute 21 of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting held on 26 July 2011 be approved. [1]

Action Required
1. Make the agreed amendments to the Constitution AD

37. SCRUTINY - ANNUAL REPORT

Council received the Annual Scrutiny Report from Cllr Galvin, Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee.

38. REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER

written report was received from Cllr Potter, the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services.

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

(i) From Cllr Brooks:
"Is the Cabinet Member concerned that over 40% of pupils reported feeling lonely at school and could she explain what is being done to reduce that percentage?"

The Cabinet Member replied:
"This is the percentage of pupils who reported feeling lonely at some point in the month preceding the survey. To put that figure in context, only 8% of primary and 1.5% of secondary pupils reported feeling lonely often. Each school has access to detailed information about the position in their organisation and schools have a variety of different systems in place to support young people."

In response to a supplementary question asking why more detailed information on this area had not been included in the report, the Cabinet Member replied that it was not possible to include full details of every aspect of her portfolio area in a brief report to Council.

(ii) <u>From Cllr Barton:</u>
"In view of the 2011 bullying survey which shows that over 40% of both primary and secondary school pupils experience some form of bullying on a daily basis, how might you suggest these figures be used to inform policy and practice development?"

The Cabinet Member replied:
"Again, it is probably not true to say that 40% of pupils are bullied daily. This is the cumulative figure incorporating a number of different categories, not all of which are mutually exclusive. In one area, that of cyber-bullying, the figures are relatively low in York. More analysis is needed to determine the reasons behind the statistics.

In response to a supplementary question seeking results from two recent anti-bullying initiatives in schools, the Cabinet Member replied that she would report back on these after contacting those schools where these initiatives had been used. She further highlighted that, overall, 92% had reported feeling safe at school and 84% liked going to school.

In response to a second supplementary question asking why the report had not mentioned the youth support services in connection with cyber-bullying, new integrated services for young people would be included in her next report, once implementation of the new services was complete.

(iii) From Cllr Aspden:

"Could the Cabinet Member give more information on what she will be doing to work towards preventing future increases in the number of looked after children in York?"

The Cabinet Member replied:

"It is sad that the number of looked after children has increased to 250, and it highlights the importance of early intervention work to support families at an early stage. As mentioned in my report, the new 'Front Door' early intervention service is bringing together a multi-agency team to provide this support. Since its introduction, there have been 2,650 contacts with the service. The picture in York does need to be placed in the national context of a 20% increase in looked after children, against a background of a period of austerity. This situation is likely to be compounded by government changes to the benefits system."

The time limit having expired for this item, written answers were circulated after the meeting to the remaining question as follows:

(iv) From Cllr Healey

"Firstly I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students, parents and teachers for their collective success in this year's 'A' level and GCSE results. Notwithstanding the City's successes, how many students left school without an A-C in Maths or English?"

Reply

Whilst we have only have provisional data (therefore liable to change when re-grades/re-marks filter through) for 2011 for students results at the end of KS4, we can say that out of the total numbers of KS4 students 1838 (including Danesgate and Applefields) there were 736 students who left school without the full GCSE qualification in English and Maths. It should be noted that 484 students either didn't enter or achieve a A–C in English GCSE, and a further 100 students didn't enter or achieve a A*-C in Maths GCSE. However, that is the picture at the end of KS4 rather than of leaving school. We would expect at least some of those students to be retaking GCSE-level qualifications in their school sixth form or at York College and so the final figure will be slightly better. We achieved 62% pass in 5+ A*–C (including English & Maths) in York in 2011, against a very provisional national result for 2011 of 58%, or a definite national result for 2010*

of 55.2%, so significantly better. Please note these % results do not include Danesgate, as PRUs are not included at national levels.

(v) From Cllr Aspden

"Can the Cabinet Member say what steps she will be taking to ensure the upcoming safeguarding inspection in 2012 continues to meet the high standards of previous inspections?"

Reply

The main area where we under achieved last time was in members' engagement with the corporate parenting role. I am pleased that we will be asking for agreement to a new Corporate Parenting Forum at the meeting of the Cabinet next week. This will help elected members scrutinise the services that looked after children receive and involve more elected members in this very important role.

(vi) From Cllr Healey

"What new initiatives has the Labour administration put in place since May, or plan to this year, to meet the Cabinet Member's aspiration to 'maintain a strong commitment to and focus on early intervention and prevention'."

Reply

We have commissioned work to look at how we support families and young people in the areas of the city that have higher levels of deprivation in the City. This will be coming to Cabinet early next year. We have also agreed to maintain all 9 children's centres in the City despite savage cuts to budgets by the Coalition government. I believe that children's centres have a crucial role in supporting families in difficult times.

(vii) From Cllr Healey

"What's the latest estimate of the number of children leaving school at 16 who are functionally illiterate?"

Reply

There were only 19 students who didn't achieve a recognised qualification, or if you say that the pass should be equivalent to of at least 1+ A-G then there were 32 students. In percentage terms this is 99% or 98.3% respectively. That isn't necessarily a measure of functional literacy, but I am not*

sure exactly what qualifications to use to get that measurement.

39. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- NHS Foundation Trust – meeting on 23 March 2011
- North Yorkshire Police Authority – meeting on 25 March 2011
- Safer York Partnership – minutes of meeting on 23 May 2011
- Quality Bus Partnership – meeting on 9 June 2011
- York & North Yorkshire Waste Partnership – meeting 30 June 2011
- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority – meeting on 25 July 2011

No questions had been submitted to representatives on outside bodies.

40. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED: That the appointments to, and changes to membership of, committees, outside bodies and working groups set out in the revised list circulated around the Council Chamber (and attached as an annex to these minutes) be approved. [1]

Action Required

4. Ensure that the agreed changes to memberships are implemented — FY

41. NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Health and Social Care Bill

It was moved by Cllr Riches and seconded by Cllr Semlyen that:

"Council notes:

- That health funding rose dramatically during 13 years of Labour Government resulting in improved care, treatment and investment in new hospitals;
- The Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government's promise not to pursue expensive top-down reorganisations of the NHS, and its subsequent planned £2bn top-down reorganisation of the NHS, through the Health and Social Care Bill;
- York District Hospital needing to implement £12-£14m of cuts over the three years 2011-14, and for it to deliver existing services with 5-6% less funding, despite the Government's commitment to real terms NHS funding increases.

Council expresses dissatisfaction at:

- The removal of the requirement in the above Bill for the Secretary of State for Health to provide a National Health Service;
- The Bill not providing the City's new Health and Wellbeing Board with the power to 'sign off' changes to local health service provision, resulting in an absence of local democratic accountability that the Government claimed to support.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health, urging him to scrap the Health and Social Care Bill and to undertake meaningful consultation on the future of Health and Social Care, and also to write to the City's MPs requesting their support for this course of action." [1]

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

"In the first paragraph:

- At the end of the first bullet point, add *'but also notes that money was not always spent efficiently and that the*

Labour Chaired Public Accounts Committee recently noted that productivity in the NHS actually declined in the last decade.'

- In the third bullet point insert at the beginning, *'Labour's failure to control public spending and the build up of massive debts has left'*
- At the end of the third bullet point, delete *'despite the Government's commitment to real terms NHS funding increases.'* and insert: *'even though the Coalition Government have provided real terms NHS funding increases.'*

In the second paragraph:

- Delete *'Council expresses dissatisfaction at'* and insert *'Council further notes'*
- Delete the first bullet point and replace with: *'That Ministers have given assurances regarding the legal duties of the Secretary of State to provide a National Health Service, but that further clarification is required to reduce concerns.'*
- In the second bullet point, delete *'The Bill not providing'* and insert *'Concerns that the Bill does not provide'*

In the final paragraph:

- delete all from *'to scrap'* to *'Health and social care'* and replace with – *'accept amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill aimed at further clarifying the duties of the Secretary of State and other concerns raised and also writes to the City's MPs requesting their support for this course of action'.*

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

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved. [1]

(ii) <u>Renewable Energy</u>

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

"In order to further CYC's encouragement of energy conservation and the benefits of renewable energy, the Council requests that officers formulate a policy relating to the installation of photovoltaic

panels on roof tops, to assist in particular with the consideration of applications on listed buildings and in conservation areas." [2]

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved. [2]

(iii) National Planning Policy Framework

It was moved by Cllr Aspden and seconded by Cllr Reid that:

"Council welcomes the desire of the Government to make planning policy more acceptable by simplifying the National Planning Policy Framework. However, Council is concerned that the proposals undermine the ability of local communities, including Parish Councils, to protect their local areas from inappropriate development.

Council is especially concerned that changes will combine with the recent decision by the Labour Administration to allocate land in the green belt for development as part of the LDF to create a situation whereby developers will feel encouraged to push for additional green belt land to be released.

Council therefore resolves to write to the City's MPs asking them to work towards changes to the framework to ensure protection of the green belt to strengthen the ability of Local Authorities to ensure that development is appropriate and in keeping with the surrounding area."

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

"In the first line of the first paragraph, after *'Council',* insert the word *'cautiously'.*
Insert a new second paragraph, as follows:
'Council expresses concerns over the conduct of the Planning Minister Greg Clark in appointing three developers to the advisory panel of four experts who drafted the Planning Policy Framework.'
In the second (now the third) paragraph, delete all after *'concerned that'* and substitute:
'time is given by the Minister to allow Local Authorities to put in place their Local Development Frameworks so as to ensure

protection of Green Belt sites and local green spaces in built up areas'

Insert a new fourth paragraph, as follows:

'Council requests the Minister to reverse his instructions to Planning Inspectors to take the Framework's 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' into consideration on current appeals as final approval of the policy has not taken place and is not due to until April 2012.'

In the third (now the fifth) paragraph:

- After *'asking them to',* delete *'work towards changes to the framework'* and substitute:
  'support the Council's request to the Planning Minister to give time for Local Authorities to adopt their Local Development Frameworks, to withdraw instructions to Planning Inspectors to take the Framework's 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' into consideration on current appeals, and to halt the current process whilst an independent review of the proposed Frameworks is undertaken'.
- After *'protection of the green* belt', insert *and local green spaces, to give priority to Brownfield development and'*

At the end of the motion, add:

'Council requests that the Chief Executive writes similarly to the Planning Minister detailing its concerns.'"

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

"Council cautiously welcomes the desire of the Government to make planning policy more acceptable by simplifying the National Planning Policy Framework. However, Council is concerned that the proposals undermine the ability of local communities, including Parish Councils, to protect their local areas from inappropriate development.

Council expresses concerns over the conduct of the Planning Minister Greg Clark in appointing three developers to the advisory panel of four experts who drafted the Planning Policy Framework

Council is especially concerned that time is given by the Minister to allow Local Authorities to put in place their Local Development Frameworks so as to ensure protection of Green Belt sites and local green spaces in built up areas.

Council requests the Minister to reverse his instructions to Planning Inspectors to take the Framework's *'presumption in favour of sustainable development'* into consideration on current appeals as final approval of the policy has not taken place and is not due to until April 2012

Council therefore resolves to write to the City's MPs asking them to support the Council's request to the Planning Minister to give time for Local Authorities to adopt their Local Development Frameworks, to withdraw instructions to Planning Inspectors to take the Framework's *'presumption in favour of sustainable development'* into consideration on current appeals, and to halt the current process whilst an independent review of the proposed Frameworks is undertaken to ensure protection of the green belt and local green spaces, to give priority to Brownfield development and to strengthen the ability of Local Authorities to ensure that development is appropriate and in keeping with the surrounding area. [3]

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes similarly to the Planning Minister detailing its concerns." [3]

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. [3]

(iv) <u>Cuts to the Police Service</u>

It was moved by Cllr Williams, and seconded by Cllr Burton, that:

"Council notes recent riots in different cities in England and the Conservative / Liberal Democrat Government's proposed cuts to the police service which will lead to 200 fewer police officers on the streets of York and North Yorkshire.

At a time of Government cuts to the police service, Council believes it is wrong to introduce police commissioners at a cost of £100 million and more as a result of a Government decision to waste money on 42 elected politicians being paid over £120,000 a year. Also, the decision to move the police commissioner election from May to November for purely party political purposes will lead to an additional £25m cost to the taxpayer.

Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary, Theresa May, to urge her to reconsider the introduction of police commissioners at a time of impending cuts to the police service. Citizens in York would prefer to keep police officers on the streets rather than pay for elected politicians to be police commissioners."

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

Amendment to the above motion from Cllr Orrell
"In paragraph 1, delete *'200'.*
In paragraph 3, after *'police service',* insert: *'and to call on her to reimburse North Yorkshire Police for the cost incurred in responding for her call for forces to support other areas in dealing with the riots'.*
At the end of the motion, add:
'Council further requests that the Chief Executive write to the York Superintendent congratulating Officers for responding to the Home Secretary's call to support other Forces during the recent riots and put more Officers on the streets'."

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

"Council notes recent riots in different cities in England and the Conservative / Liberal Democrat Government's proposed cuts to the police service which will lead to fewer police officers on the streets of York and North Yorkshire.

At a time of Government cuts to the police service, Council believes it is wrong to introduce police commissioners at a cost of £100 million and more as a result of a Government decision to waste money on 42 elected politicians being paid over £120,000 a year. Also, the decision to move the police commissioner election from May to November for purely party political purposes will lead to an additional £25m cost to the taxpayer.

Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary, Theresa May, to urge her to reconsider the introduction of police commissioners at a time of impending cuts to the police service and to call on her to reimburse North Yorkshire Police for

the cost incurred in responding to her call for forces to support other areas in dealing with the riots. Citizens in York would prefer to keep police officers on the streets rather than pay for elected politicians to be police commissioners.

Council further requests that the Chief Executive write to the York Superintendent congratulating Officers for responding to the Home Secretary's call to support other Forces during the recent riots and put more Officers on the streets."

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.[4]

(v) Member Champions

Motion from Cllr D'Agorne
"This Council calls on the Cabinet to reinstate the positions of member champion for older people, young people, and heritage. In addition, the cycle champion role should be replaced with a 'green travel' champion who will promote sustainable and active travel to include walking, cycling and public transport.

This Council also resolves to amend the Council's constitution so as to ensure that council publicity can feature champions acting in furtherance of their roles."

Cllr Fraser then moved, and Cllr Potter seconded, that the above motion be referred to Cabinet under Standing Order 12.1(b).

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be referred to Cabinet for the purposes of considering an Officer report on the matter. [5]

Action Required

1. Write to Secretary of State and York MPs in the terms agreed	LH
2. Take action to compile a policy on installation of photovoltaic panels	DW
3. Write to Planning Minister and York MPs in the terms agreed	LH
4. Write to the Home Secretary in the terms agreed	LH

5. Schedule a report on Member Champions on the Cabinet Forward Plan for a suitable meeting date — AD

42. QUESTIONS TO THE CABINET LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 11

Seventeen questions had been submitted to the Executive Leader and Executive Members under Standing Order 11.3(a). The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written answers to their questions, as set out below:

(i) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Firth

"Can the Leader say whether the Council's debt position for 2011/12 has increased or decreased since he became Leader?"

Reply

The Council's debt position for 2011/12 was reduced by the Labour administration by £1.7m in the budget amendment passed by Full Council on 30th June 2011. Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors disagreed with this move and voted against.

On 30th August 2011 there was agreement by the Group Leaders of the three main parties to purchase land on York Central which is strategically critical for the development of the site for up to £1.5m.

It is disappointing the land which was owned by Yorkshire Forward was not gifted to the Council as it was already in public hands. I contacted Vince Cable MP before Christmas asking for this to be considered and he never responded. If the land was sold to another organisation or held in trust this would have caused difficulties for York being its own master in terms of the local economy.

I was expecting the funds for this purchase to come from the £1.5m capital receipt from the sale of the Kent Street site to the Fire Service. I was alarmed to learn that the budget voted for by Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors on 24th February 2011 was already predicated on this sale at this price. Therefore without the sale progressing by the Labour administration, the council would have found itself with a £1.5m black hole in the capital programme.

In total, the debt position of the Council is currently at least £200k less than it was when I became Leader of the Council.

However, it is important to note that the capital programme agreed for the coming years before Labour took control of the Council will lead to increases in the debt position of the Council.

(ii) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Wiseman:
"What is the cost to the Council tax payers of York for the staffing and funding of Union Officers?"

Reply
The cost for the last full year 2010/11 was £120k (£1.79 per property or £0.61 per resident).
This calculation per household is based on the Council Tax base.

(iii) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Galvin:
"Given that the Council has to make cuts and reduce staffing levels, can the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services justify spending Council Tax Payers money on the transfer of two experienced Planning Enforcement Officers to act as Union Representatives whilst still being employed by the Council?"

Reply
(from the Council Leader)
As my Leader portfolio includes staff relations, it is appropriate for me to answer this question. The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (TULR(C)A) which was passed by a Conservative Government gives trade union officials a statutory right to reasonable paid time off from employment to carry out industrial relations duties. The policy of the Council on how payment is made for these duties with a contribution from departmental budgets was set in 2006. Union convenors are elected democratically by their members irrespective of the department they work in. Where time off is agreed for a convener, this is taken off their normal contracted hours. Department management will make the decision on how they cover this loss of work time. The 1.4fte hours in planning enforcement is backfilled for the duration of the secondment to ensure the section is fully staffed.
Since 2010 two union convenors have been deployed from the planning enforcement team on a part-time basis only.

There has been no change to this situation or policy since Labour took control of the Council at the end of May 2011. In the 2010/11 budget a full time planning enforcement officer was made redundant following a budget approved by both Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors. Job losses are inevitable in local government when the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government is cutting funding at unprecedented levels to councils. In such situations it is more important than ever for employees to have a democratic voice in negotiations over job losses or terms and conditions that are protected in law through legislation passed by a Conservative Government.

(iv) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Cuthbertson

"How many Freedom of Information requests were received regarding the sale of Union Terrace Car and Coach park? On what dates were they received and how many have not yet been responded to?"

Reply

The Council has received 11 FOI requests on Union Terrace Car and Coach Park. These were received on the following dates:
10th July
11th July (2)
12th July
13th July
14th July
15th July
22nd July
1st August
9th August
9th September
Each request has received a response.

(v) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Cllr Firth

"Can the Cabinet Member say how many businesses she met with at the recent meet the buyer event?"

Reply

The Meet the Buyer event at York Racecourse on 28th September had 170 suppliers in attendance.

I spoke with a lot of suppliers during the event, a number which it would be difficult to put a figure on it. It was a successful event and extremely worthwhile both for suppliers and for the Council.

(vi) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy from Cllr Aspden

"Given the recent results of the Fulfordgate residents parking ballot and parking issues associated with the University, will the Cabinet Member commission a report into the interrelated parking issues for the Heslington Lane area of Fulford before the end of the year?"

Reply

Earlier this year I agreed to an experimental parking strategy in the Badger Hill area which has experienced the worst impacts of increased parking issues associated with the development of the University. The results of this experiment will be reported back to me in the new year with a view to developing the strategy further so that it can be considered in other areas that experience similar increased parking problems. The future development of the University is planned over several years and expansion of any parking strategy will inevitably evolve in line with this development. This is likely to be an ongoing issue for some years and the Heslington Lane area will be included as part of these deliberations.

(vii) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy from Cllr Hyman

"Can the Cabinet Member say what steps he intends to take to increase the number of companies that allow the use of Taxi Cards?"

Reply

The Taxi Card, available to all York residents with qualifying disabilities, can be used on 104 taxis across the York area. Taxi companies were selected through a free and fair tender process which placed an emphasis on service quality, provision of a high proportion of disabled-accessible vehicles, and drivers trained in disability awareness issues. The Council conducted a tendering process to select the taxi card promoters. The winning bidders were Station Taxis (a large hackney carriage operator), and York Travel (a private-hire operator specialising in transport for the disabled). The

Taxi Card can also be used on York Wheels' car scheme and the Council's Dial & Ride service.
Each driver is taking fewer than ten taxi card bookings per month at present so this would suggest that the supply more than adequately meets current demand.

(viii) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy from Cllr Cuthbertson

"Given the reports of conflict between vehicles and cycles caused by the layout of the new style speed cushions outside Joseph Rowntree School, can the Cabinet Member say if he intends to allow the cushions to continue to be used in groups of three elsewhere in the City?"

Reply

A typical urban traffic calming layout using cushions is most likely to suit two cushions, however the arrangement is dictated by the width of the carriageway. As soon as the carriageway gets beyond a certain width the gap between the cushion and the kerb and between the two cushions in the centre becomes wide enough to tempt motorists to drive through the gaps to avoid the cushions. This has the potential to cause conflict with cyclists or opposing traffic. On very wide roads the carriageway can be narrowed locally using buildouts to allow two cushions to be placed with the correct spacing. However, cycle bypasses are required in these instances, otherwise cyclists would be forced out into the carriageway. An example of this solution can be found just north of Haxby Road Primary School
Where road widths fall somewhere between being too wide for two cushions and too narrow for buildouts, three speed cushions are generally the preferred solution. There are less than ten locations in the Council area with this arrangement, most of which I am advised operate successfully with no concern raised by road users, however some are more problematic such as outside Joseph Rowntree Secondary School, due to the presence of on-road cycle lanes. The layout at this location has been in place for several years without reported incident but the replacement of the bitmac cushions with precast rubber cushions appears to have changed the way motorists travel through the area. Solutions to remove the conflict including general road narrowing or moving the cycle route off road have been considered by officers but are expensive and have the potential to introduce

new conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians. Pending the availability of funding against other higher priority locations, officers will continue to monitor this site.

(ix) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy from Cllr Aspden
"Can the Cabinet Member say when he expects the petition from residents regarding road safety on Selby Road, Fulford to be considered at a Decision Session?"

Reply
A report is in the process of being written in response to the petition request for double white lines. Though it should be noted that the provision of such lines is very strictly regulated by the Department for Transport on visibility grounds.

(x) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Taylor
"With the proposals under consultation to reduce the provision in our Residential Elderly Persons' Care Homes from 276 to 200 beds, will the Cabinet Member guarantee that, under the new proposals, there will be sufficient beds to meet the needs of York's ageing population?"

Reply
The review seeks to address the growing decline in the number of older people who wish to enter traditional residential care, preferring instead to be supported to retain their independence for as long as possible in their own home or have access to alternative types of housing with support options if they can no longer cope at home. The desire for many is to stay in their own community as long as possible. Current and future needs show a need for more specialist bed provision which the City of York Council lacks and currently is having to seek outside its own provision
The proposed 200 specialist beds are supplemented by the variety of supported living options to be provided within the Lowfields Village concept. A mixture of types of tenure, affordable housing and bungalows to buy on this site can provide for between 50 and 75 older people depending on the final plans for the site. All tenure types would be supported as necessary by the residential facilities and social hub on site.

The investment in expanding the capacity of community support services to help support more older people to retain or regain their independence and prevent admission to residential care or hospital is a joint agenda with health colleagues. This is being funded by Central Government monies (£1.997m) over the next two years to address demographic pressures.

(xi) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Cuthbertson

"Can the Cabinet Member say how many responses to the consultation on Elderly Person's Homes have been received and how many people attended each of the public meeting events?"

Reply

As of the consultation close on Monday 26th September there had been 1163 responses to the questionnaire and 104 people attended the four public consultation meetings. Further to this, consultation displays were also set up in the foyers of three supermarkets (Monks Cross, Foss Islands and Askham Bar) and at the 50+ Festival Information Fair at the Guildhall. Council staff discussed the review with members of the public and handed out some 300 copies of the consultation questionnaire.

(xii) To the Cabinet Member for Communities & Neighbourhoods from Cllr Ayre

"Given that Quarter 1 figures suggest that existing policies have already increased the recycling rate to the level projected in Labour budget amendment, can the Cabinet Member say what rates she expects to reach once the new smaller recycling boxes have been introduced?"

Reply

A significant number of residents in small flats and smaller terraced properties find the current system of three large boxes difficult to manage when storage is limited and/or they do not generate large amounts of recyclable waste.
So we are offering residents who would prefer a more manageable size of container the opportunity to take up the offer. We are currently doing some research on the ground and some focus groups to assess people's views on recycling and when that is completed, we will be able to

assess demand and what some people may see as barriers to recycling more.
Our focus is very much on making recycling more convenient to residents, which will clearly increase recycling rates. Exactly how much will become clear once our preliminary research has been completed, when Coun. Ayre will be one of the first to be informed.

(xiii) To the Cabinet Member for Communities & Neighbourhoods from Cllr Aspden

"Will the Cabinet Member agree to take steps to make the planting of trees easier on the Fulford Road corridor in order to help reduce air quality problems?"

Reply

(from the Cabinet Member for City Strategy)

The available scientific research, looking at the impact of planting trees on local air quality, will be reviewed as part of the AQAP development for Fulford. However, it should be noted that tree planting alone is unlikely to offer the levels of air quality improvement required to achieve the Air Quality objectives in all areas of the corridor. Nevertheless, tree planting along the corridor as part of the wider climate change agenda would clearly be beneficial.
Whilst I'm fully supportive of new trees, planting and locating, particularly highway trees, is not always a straightforward issue, and would need careful examination and, where appropriate, consultation with adjacent residents. Proposed highway trees will need to be considered individually against the current policy guidelines.
A general summary is:

1. *The proposed location of the tree in relation to junctions and sight lines.*
2. *The width and soil depth of the verge.*
3. *The location and depth of underground services.*
4. *General safety, such as the relationship of the proposed tree, its growing height and it location to street lights.*
5. *The aesthetics of the tree, will it be staked, guarded etc.*

I am willing to consider any intelligent suggestions Councillor Aspden has to achieve the suggested objective.

(xiv) To the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services from Cllr Aspden

"Does the Cabinet Member agree that personal finance education is vital in helping young people succeed in life and will she agree to look at ways in which the Council can encourage all schools in the City to teach these skills?"

Reply

Yes, I have already signed up to the campaign to ensure that young people receive personal finance education as part of the curriculum. There are now more than 83,500 names on the petition.

(xv) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion from Cllr Ayre

"Can the Cabinet Member explain why local residents were not consulted prior to the decision being taken to reclassify Rawcliffe Country Park in the Council's Events Protocol?"

Reply

The decision to allow the possibility of Rawcliffe Country Park hosting appropriate events was taken in light of suggestions that have been made over a long period of time. There is a real demand for this park to be better used for community benefit. Ward Members are aware of this interest and support the change to allow suitable events to happen. I'm puzzled by the implication that consultation should have taken place on this minor change when the previous administration never undertook any consultation on it, either when they first put it in place or when Cllr Ayre himself made more major revisions.

(xvi) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion from Cllr Ayre

"Will the Cabinet Member confirm whether she intends to pursue a premises licence for Monk Stray?"

Reply

There are no plans to pursue a premises licence for Monk Stray. If there ever should be an intention in the future it would be subject to public consultation in the normal way as I have clearly stated to Cllr Ayre on two previous occasions.

(xvii) To the Cabinet Member for Crime & Community Safety from Cllr Orrell

"Can the Cabinet Member detail some of the key decisions he has taken since May as part of his portfolio responsibilities

and can he say how these decisions have impacted on crime and the perception of crime in the City?"

Reply
Firstly, I would draw attention to the Cabinet having highlighted 'Build Strong Communities' as a priority in the Council Plan, which appears elsewhere on the agenda. Safer, Inclusive Communities has been identified as a building block of this priority.
Also, the following matters are amongst the decisions taken since May of this year (with the impact on crime and the perceptions of crime of each decision outlined below each bullet point):

- *To determine the scope of a review of community based enforcement functions*

  By maximising the flexibility of the utilisation of the current resources allocated to the various enforcement functions this should enable a more effective and efficient use of these resources and will improve the Council's performance in this area and enable these resources to be directed to the particular priorities identified at any given time.

- *To delegate to Birmingham City Council the power to investigate cases of illegal money lending in the City of York area and to determine a protocol for such investigations*

  This will enable the Council to make use of a specialist team with the skills and resources required to address cases of illegal money lending, a crime which often affects the most needy and vulnerable within our communities.

- *To support proposed changes to the delivery of consumer protection services and to approve a response to the Government's consultation in this respect, in particular supporting the continuance of a specialist region-wide "Scambuster" Team based in City of York Council*

  By responding positively to the Government's proposed changes to the delivery of the various consumer protection services we seek to ensure the continuity of these services

for the residents of York and to maintain the Council's well-regarded and high performing "Scambusters" pan-regional service, which provides protection, again often for very vulnerable groups, who may be victims of criminal and fraudulent schemes, and to ensure that the perpetrators of such schemes are brought to account.

- *To approve the allocation of this year's Target Hardening fund to specific schemes and to determine the future arrangements for the submission of such scheme proposals and the process for their consideration*

Already a number of the approved schemes, which were proposed through the current process by the Safer York Partnership (SYP), North Yorkshire Police (NYP) and Ward Committees, are being implemented which will combat crime and Anti-social Behaviour and reduce the fear of crime in our communities.
The changes to the arrangements for dealing with this for the future will enhance the process by making it more open and transparent, allowing greater opportunity for community involvement in identifying potential Target Hardening Schemes, and will align the process more clearly to that of the Ward Committees' participatory budgeting process. By increasing awareness of the Target Hardening Fund this will also increase the focus for the potential to undertake measures which will address the incidence of crime and ASB and make the public more aware of the work of the Council and our partners, thus reducing the fear of crime.

- *To approve the process for the development of an annual "Crime Summit", the first to take place next Spring, thus fulfilling another of this Labour Administration's manifesto commitments*

Having fulfilled Labour's commitment to create a senior elected position within the Council to tackle crime and community safety, the annual Crime Summit will provide a further focus for the residents of York, businesses within the City and community and voluntary organisations to meet with the Council, the police, Safer York Partnership and other stakeholders, to identify and address areas of priority in tackling crime, ASB and the fear of crime. It will also meet the obligation for the police and other partners to ensure, and

increase, community engagement in their work in this field. It will also provide an opportunity to share information on the performance of all concerned, and the initiatives being undertaken by all concerned.
Finally, the creation of my post is far cheaper than that of an elected police commissioner that the Government is introducing. Other councils like Conservative-run Hammersmith and Fulham have found the creation of such a post very beneficial to fighting crime.

Cllr D Horton
LORD MAYOR OF YORK
[The meeting started at 6.45 pm and concluded at 10.15 pm]

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Minute Annex

Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

Committees/Working Groups

Environment Appeals Committee

To appoint Cllr Healey in place of Cllr Richardson.

Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- To appoint Cllr Gillies in place of Cllr Galvin.
- To appoint Cllr Hodgson as 1st Labour substitute in place of Cllr Semlyen.

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To appoint Cllr Jeffries as 2nd Labour substitute in place of Cllr Fitzpatrick, who is now a full member of the Committee.

Staffing Matters & Urgency Committee

To note that, due to a mistake on the list approved at Annual Council, Cllr Simpson-Laing was incorrectly appointed as Vice-Chair of the above committee and is in fact a substitute on the committee.

Outside Bodies

Local Authority Commission on Asylum and Migration (LACAM)

To appoint Cllr Crisp

Consultation Meetings with looked After Children “Show Me That I Matter”.
To appoint Cllr Brooks in place of Cllr Wiseman.

Local Government Information Unit
To note that this body's constitution now only requires one nomination rather than two and to confirm the appointment of Cllr Alexander as the one representative and Cllr Merrett as substitute.

Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)
To appoint Cllrs Crisp and Looker

Trustee of York Citizens' Advice Bureau
To appoint Cllr Jeffries in place of Cllr Crisp