

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 29th March, 2012, starting at 6.30 pm

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

ACOMB WARD

Horton
Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Galvin

CLIFTON WARD

Douglas
King
Scott

DERWENT WARD

Brooks

DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD

Hodgson
Reid
Semlyen

FISHERGATE WARD

D'Agorne
Taylor

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker
Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Cuthbertson
Firth
Richardson

HESLINGTON WARD

Levene

HEWORTH WARD

Boyce
Funnell

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Ayre

Potter

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Crisp
Riches

HULL ROAD WARD

Barnes
Fitzpatrick

HUNTINGTON & NEW
EARSWICK WARD

Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Warters

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE &
CLIFTON WITHOUT WARD

McIlveen
Watt

STRENSALL WARD

Doughty
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Jeffries
Burton
Williams

WHELDRAKE WARD

Barton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hyman,
Steward and Cunningham-Cross

63. 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 **personal** interests were declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Alexander	8. Pay Policy 2012/13	Member of GMB Union
Ayre	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Member of Planning Committee
Boyce	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Member York NHS Foundation Trust
Brooks	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Planning Committee Substitute
Crisp	8. Pay Policy 2012/13	Member of retired section of Unison
D'Agorne	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	As an employee of York College Member of Planning Committee
Doughty	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Member - York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Member of Planning Committee Supporter and season ticket holder of York City

		Football Club
Fraser	6. Petitions 7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case) 8. Pay Policy 2012/13	Resident of Millfield Road. Local Authority Member - York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Member of retired section of Unison and Unite (ACTS/TGWU Sections)
Galvin	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Member - York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Member of Planning Committee
Gillies	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Daughter was a Board member of the York City Supporters Club
Gunnell	8. Pay Policy 2012/13	Member of Unison
Hodgson	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Member of Unison Ex employee of York Hospital Trust
Levene	8. Pay Policy 2012/13	Member of Unite
Merrett	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Member - York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Potter	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 118: Neighbourhood	Had made a bid for Ward funding from the voluntary sector.

	Working) 8. Pay Policy 2012/13	Member of Unison
Reid	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Member of the Planning Committee
Richardson	8. Pay Policy 2012/13	Member of Unite
Riches	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case) 8. Pay Policy 2012/13	Local Authority Member - York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust As an employee of Unison and a member of Unite
Scott	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case) 9. Recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee	Wife has a major shareholding in Flax and Twine Limited that is currently negotiating a lease of a building for business purposes within the boundary of the Council. Chair of the Young People's Working Group and first elected Young People's Champion
Semlyen	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Member - York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Simpson-Laing	7. Cabinet	Daughter a

	Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case) 8. Pay Policy 2012/13	Member of York Athletics Club. Member - York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Member of Unison
Taylor	9.Recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee (Minute 54: Changes to the Constitution)	As the first and last Heritage Champion
Watson	7. Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	As a sponsor of York City Knights players
Warters	7 .Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	As he undertook work for Mr J Guildford but had no other connection with York City Knights or the stadium
Watt	7 .Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Member of Planning Committee
Williams	8. Pay Policy 2012/13	Member of Unite and Unison
Wiseman	7 .Cabinet Recommendations (Minute 119: The Community Stadium: Business Case)	Public Governor of York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust As a possible future member of the Planning Committee

64. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Cllr Alexander moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded:

“That the press and public be excluded from the Chamber during discussion on Annexes A and B (including Annexes 1-12) of agenda item 7 (Community Stadium: Business Case), on the grounds that the discussion will include reference to information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons, which is classed as exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as revised by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).”

RESOLVED: That the above motion be approved and that the press and public be excluded from the Chamber during consideration of the recommendations on the Community Stadium: Business Case.

65. MINUTES

RESOLVED: i) That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 8 December 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to:

The addition in Minute 43 (Declarations of Interest) of the declaration of a personal non prejudicial interest by Cllr Levene in Agenda items 9. Report of Cabinet Member and 13. Questions to the Cabinet Leader and Cabinet Members relating to terms and conditions and Union members as a member of Unite.¹

ii) That the minutes of the Budget Council meeting held on 23 February 2012 (circulated at the meeting) be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Action Required

1. Amend and republish minutes.

JP

66. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor asked Members to join him in thanking Bill Woolley, the Director of City Strategy for all his work for the city over a number of years and wishing him well in his retirement.

The Lord Mayor reported receipt of the civic gift of a framed certificate from the Maritime Theatre Missile Defense Forum awarded in appreciation of their visit to the Mansion House.

67. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor announced that six members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

Reuban Mayne spoke as lead petitioner in support of retaining the Beckfield Lane Recycling Centre. He expressed his thanks to the 2,870 signatories, and referred to feedback received from concerned users at the proposed closure of the site. He acknowledged the hard working staff on site and assistance they gave to residents using the facility. It was also noted that there had been no on site injuries since opening. Reference was also made to the affect any closure would have on vulnerable residents and the environment and he urged members to reverse their closure decision.

Harry Telfer spoke on behalf of the Badger Hill Community Group, in relation to the excessive on street parking by university students on their estate roads. Access to emergency vehicles was impeded as parking prevented two way traffic. He therefore requested members to consider extending the experimental traffic regulation order within the southern part of the 'Traffic-Count Zone 9' at Badger Hill to the whole of Zone 9.

Mike Fisher spoke as owner of a local business in relation to the Community Stadium proposals, particularly to the four years taken to produce the business case. Reference was made to the reports reliance on a rise in attendance figures at the stadium and increasing income when gate numbers were falling for clubs. Concerns were also expressed that the report was not objective and contained flawed information.

Denise Craghill also spoke in respect of the business case for the Community Stadium and her concerns at its content and preparation prior to consideration of the planning application. She questioned the lack of information as to how the provision would benefit the city and if this was the most suitable location for a community hub. There was still insufficient information provided on which to make a decision and she urged members to defer further consideration pending receipt of further information.

Matthew Greenwood also spoke on the business case for the Stadium expressing concern at the monetary case put forward prior to consideration of a planning application. In particular he referred to the suggested returns from Waterworld following the recent opening of a number of competing gym facilities in the area. There was a lack of research and financial information in the report and no fall back plan if required.

Suzanne Lawson spoke in support of the petition, to be presented later in the meeting, for the gating of the alley between Nunmill Street and part of Bishopthorpe Road. Reference was made to a number of recent burglaries in the area and that 66% of the areas residents supported gating of the alley which would provide security, and safety for families.

68. PETITIONS

Under Standing Order 7, petitions were presented by:

- i) Cllr Fraser on behalf of residents of Nunmill Street and part of Bishopthorpe Rd calling for the gating of the alley between the two streets.¹
- ii) Cllr Levene on behalf of Heslington residents regarding the proposed Field Lane-University Road changes.²
- iii) Cllr Barnes on behalf of Badger Hill residents group regarding parking in the area.³
- iv) Cllr Boyce on behalf of Heworth ward residents requesting the replacement of a seat on Hempland Lane.⁴

- v) Cllr Reid on behalf of residents objection to the closure of the Beckfield Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre.⁵
- vi) Cllr Brooks on behalf of Dunnington residents requesting the provision of lighting to a snicket at Holly Tree Croft, Dunnington.⁶

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

Action Required

1-6 Schedule items on the Forward Plan if required and keep relevant member updated on progress. SS

69. 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 thirteen questions on the written report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The first seven questions were put and answered as follows:

- (i) From Cllr Barton
“Will the cost of the improved gifts to international visitors come from the new Innovation Fund personally controlled by Cllr Alexander and what is likely to be the revised annual cost?”

The Leader replied:

“No. You have misunderstood the purpose of the delivery and innovation fund.

What I have said in my report is not about increasing the cost of diplomatic gifts to international dignitaries, it is about bringing this council’s processes and procedures on this matter in line with cities across the UK and showcasing York products and businesses to an international market. At meetings of the

internationalisation group I have set up, your Group Leader Councillor Gillies has agreed with me on this.”

- (ii) From Cllr Ayre
“How much money does he believe taxpayers should be paying for gifts?”

The Leader replied:

“It is appropriate that we are culturally sensitive to international visitors and the markets we are trying to attract. In many cultures the exchange of gifts is important for fostering relationships. I am not expecting anything expensive but something that says something about York and is of quality. We are not currently doing this in a systematic way. This is not about paying more for diplomatic gifts, it is about working with businesses across our city and ensuring their products are showcased to key international markets.”

- (iii) From Cllr Warters
“Whilst congratulating the Council Leader for the expedient removal of the ftr buses, would he demonstrate that this is not just a political gesture and commit to the removal of the other equally unsuitable, equally dangerous and equally damaging bendy buses from York’s streets?”

The Leader replied:

“The FTR buses had specific negative impacts on our city due to their size, poor fuel consumption and weight. The integrity of our city’s roads was affected and heavy maintenance costs incurred as a result.

We listened to residents’ complaints and addressed this issue. We have had no such complaints, nor seen the same impacts from the ‘bendy’ buses.”

- (iv) From Cllr Firth
“As the Leader has claimed credit for terminating the number 4 FTR service, could he tell us what representations he has made to First regarding the future of the 20 staff who have been made redundant as a result of his decision?”

The Leader replied:

"I have asked the Cabinet Member for transport, in conjunction with council officers, to lobby for redeployment where possible. As a result, six conductors have already been redeployed. We will continue these efforts.

I do not agree with the Liberal Democrats calling for council taxpayers' money to fund these redundant posts."

(v) From Cllr Ayre

"Can the Leader state whether he believes the shift from FTR to double-decker buses in the city will make public transport more or less accessible to those with disabilities?"

The Leader replied:

"Until we have seen some information regarding the usage of the new vehicles, it would be premature to answer this question. However, double-decker buses are wheelchair accessible."

(vi) From Cllr Healey

"Regarding the council's record on apprenticeships, will the Council Leader acknowledge that it was as a result of the 2011/2012 budget, which his Labour Group opposed, that an initial £100,000 for apprenticeships was provided by the council which, subsequently matched by council departments, enabled the council to recruit 32 apprenticeships since May 2011, and not the Labour Group's amendment of £25,000, which would have only resulted in 9 or 10 apprenticeships?"

The Leader replied:

"Of course, if Councillor Healey is also willing to recognise that Labour increased this budget by 15% at the 30th June 2011 council meeting following winning control of the council and that his party voted against this increase."

(vii) From Cllr Cuthbertson

"Given his comments (with regards to police commissioners) that communication with residents using the Internet rather than by mail delivery is unacceptable,

can he explain why this is the precise policy he is now using for resident engagement in York?"

The Leader replied:

"Electronic communications have a place in communicating with residents, but should not be used to completely replace traditional forms of communications. We are committed to providing a range of communication tools including electronic and paper-based, as well as personal contact, to ensure that our residents are communicated with appropriately, effectively and efficiently.

This is why the reduction in ward committee leaflets as a consequence of the last Liberal Democrat budget is to be reversed with new efficiency savings.

It should be noted that the Government has given guidance to limit the number of printed council publications."

(viii) From Cllr Aspden

"How much has the new City of York Council phone application cost (to develop, purchase and/or maintain)?"

Reply:

"The cost for the application is £7,500 in total. The application will be maintained by CYC IT team as part of their remit.

Lewisham council has achieved a saving of £20,000 in the first 6 months of using this application. I believe we will achieve similar savings. In addition there were significant reductions in graffiti and fly-tipping."

(ix) From Cllr Healey

"Regarding CYC's first phone application, what procurement activity was undertaken for the 'grot-spot' reporting smart-phone app to ensure that future applications as envisaged by Digital York (point 6 in the Cabinet Papers for 3 April 2012) can be purchased according to the principles of the CYC Procurement and Commissioning Strategy?"

Reply:

“The purchase of the license complied with the Council’s Procurement and Commissioning strategy and financial regulations for a procurement of this financial value. The application only required minimal development to tailor it to York’s requirements and this was done using the in-house development team. It is a ‘re-skinned’ Keep Britain Tidy application and has had proven success in Lewisham and across London, delivering savings to many councils. The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, personally backs this initiative.”

(x) From Cllr Reid

“With reference to the plan to introduce a text reporting system for graffiti in the City, could the Leader confirm:

- i. How many reports of problems with graffiti were received by the Council during the last 12 months and how many included a photograph?
- ii. How much the proposed new system has cost to research, design and implement?
- iii. How many successful prosecutions there were during the last 12 months against people who were responsible for graffiti in the City?”

Reply:

“The council is not introducing a text reporting system. We are introducing a phone application that is multi-platform.

1. *It’s unfortunate that the former Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services takes such a negative view of service improvement and innovation. If smartphones are becoming more widely used then she should welcome this development as a new means of quickly reporting and tackling problems out in our wards.*

She should be aware as the former Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services that the council has not recorded how many photograph-related graffiti problems are received. I do not have the details of how many reports were received in total during the past 12 months but I will ask officers to provide her with these figures.

2. *Councillor Keith Aspden has already asked this question and I have answered it.*
3. *CYC officers are in liaison with the Police, who hold these records, and we can provide an update on this following the meeting."*

(xi) From Cllr Runciman

"If he is frustrated by lack of debate about LEPs what is he doing to encourage it?"

Reply:

"I mention it at every business meeting I attend. I spoke about it to the economic scrutiny meeting when I was called before it and I have mentioned it at every council meeting since the election. I have also negotiated the Leeds City Region summit to be held in York this year. This should engage more businesses in York."

(xii) From Cllr Healey

"Regarding the minimum wage, does the Leader disagree with the former Labour Government's introduction of a different level of minimum wage for those under 21, or has this only come to his attention since the General Election of 2010?"

Reply:

"I have always opposed this differential. I believe if you do the same work, you should get the same wage irrespective of age. I also disagree with the differential widening under recent announcements of the Tory-led Government."

(xiii) From Cllr Orrell

"Given the last paragraph in the Leader's report about Labour's manifesto commitments can he confirm progress on his following manifesto commitments:

- i. Increase spending on Ward Committees?
- ii. Increase spending on road maintenance?
- iii. City Centre swimming pool?
- iv. More money on libraries?"

Reply:

1. *"Labour reversed a Liberal Democrat cut to ward committee funding for the 2011-12 financial year*

- by £16k at the Full Council meeting on 30th June 2011. Liberal Democrats voted against.
2. Labour increased the road resurfacing budget from Liberal Democrat levels for the 2011-12 financial year by £60k at the Full Council meeting on 30th June 2011. Liberal Democrats voted against.
 3. Labour included our long-term aspiration for a city centre swimming pool in the Local Development Framework changes approved at the Full Council meeting on 30th June 2011. Liberal Democrats voted against.
 4. Labour reversed a Liberal Democrat cut to library staff budgets for the 2011-12 financial year by £40k at the Full Council meeting on 30th June 2011. Liberal Democrats voted against.

On 20th January 2012 Liberal Democrats were quoted in *The Press* newspaper as saying that Labour honouring these manifesto pledges for the 2011-12 financial year was somehow inappropriate and was a “mini-spending spree.”

We reversed almost £1m of Liberal Democrat cuts and I am proud to have done so. This included reversing an 80% to Holocaust Memorial Day funding.

Liberal Democrats voted to cut these areas outlined in the question at the Executive meeting on 15th February 2011. Liberal Democrats voted again to approve these cuts at the 24th February 2011 council meeting. Liberal Democrats voted against reversing some of these cuts including the 80% Holocaust Memorial Day cut at the 7th April 2011 council meeting. Then the Liberal Democrats voted against the reversal of these cuts at the 30th June 2011 council meeting.

Yet when interviewed by the *Jewish Chronicle* on 8th July 2011, Liberal Democrat group leader, Councillor Carol Runciman said, “I have visited the camps in Germany and Poland and if the day needs this budget, then it should have it”. I don’t need to politically attack on this issue; this picture speaks for itself.”

B Cabinet Recommendations

Neighbourhood Working – A New Approach

Cllr Alexander moved, and Cllr Crisp seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 118 of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 March 2012:

“[That Council] approve a change in the Council’s constitution in respect of ward committee arrangements, as set out in the Annex to the report.”

A named vote was then requested and taken on the recommendation, with the following result:

For	Against	Abstained
Cllr Alexander	Cllr Aspden	Cllr Horton (Lord Mayor)
Cllr Barnes	Cllr Ayre	
Cllr Boyce	Cllr Barton	
Cllr Burton	Cllr Brooks	
Cllr Crisp	Cllr Cuthbertson	
Cllr Douglas	Cllr D’Agorne	
Cllr Fitzpatrick	Cllr Doughty	
Cllr Fraser	Cllr Firth	
Cllr Funnell	Cllr Galvin	
Cllr Gunnell	Cllr Gillies	
Cllr Hodgson	Cllr Healey	
Cllr Jeffries	Cllr Orrell	
Cllr King	Cllr Reid	
Cllr Levene	Cllr Richardson	
Cllr Looker	Cllr Runciman	
Cllr McIlveen	Cllr Taylor	
Cllr Merrett	Cllr Warters	
Cllr Potter	Cllr Watt	
Cllr Riches	Cllr Wiseman	
Cllr Scott		
Cllr Semlyen		
Cllr Simpson-Laing		
Cllr Watson		
Cllr Williams		
24	19	1

The above recommendation was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED: That the above recommendation in respect of Neighbourhood Working be approved. ¹.

Community Stadium: Business Case

Cllr Alexander then moved, and Cllr Gunnell seconded, the following amended recommendations to Minute 119 of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 March 2012, and set out in the additional papers circulated around the chamber:

“[That Council:]

- (i) **Note** the business case as presented **including** the financial risks and potential resultant liabilities that may arise as a result of proceeding with the scheme.
- (ii) **Note that the business case is to be submitted** to the Planning Committee in support of the outline planning application submitted by Oakgate Group plc
- (iii) **Note that Members of the Planning Committee will determine that application on its planning merits**
- (iv) Approve the inclusion in the Capital Programme of the Community Stadium scheme at the value of £19.2m to be funded from £14.85m of S106 Contribution, £4m of Prudential Borrowing (£200k 11/12 and £3.8m 12/13) and £350k York City FC. Members should note that the funding from York City Football Club could be higher than a £350k contribution and this would result in a reduction of the Council's contribution.
- (iv) Approve the release of the balance of the Council's £3.8m Prudential Borrowing as shown in the capital programme in 12/13 in order to progress the Community Stadium project.
- (v) Approve, that as part of the release of the £3.8m capital funding available, that £2m be allocated for the new athletics facility with York University and commit to the delivery of the project. Note the risks

outlined in paragraph 50 of the report that if the stadium scheme does not proceed that £2m of CYC Prudential

Borrowing will be spent on delivering athletics provision for the City.

- (vi) **Note** the risks set out in the risk management section of the report, and the financial implications section.

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

RESOLVED: That the above recommendation in respect of the Community Stadium business case be approved. ²

Action Required

1. Take any action necessary to implement the agreed new approach.
2. Proceed as agreed.

CC, SH
CC, TA

70. PAY POLICY 2012/13

Cllr Gunnell, as Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, presented a written report presenting the Pay Policy Statement for 2012/13 relating to the pay of the Council's senior staff, to fulfil the requirements of Sections 38-43 of the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Gunnell then moved a motion to approve the Pay Policy Statement, which was seconded by Cllr Alexander.

RESOLVED: That the motion in respect of the Pay Policy Statement for 2012/13 be approved.

71. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

A Changes to the Constitution

As Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee, Cllr Jeffries moved, and Cllr Barnes seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 54 of the meeting of that committee held on 13 February 2012:

“[That Council] approve the following Constitutional changes:

- i. Remove references to Member Champions from the Constitution.*
- ii. Merge the terms of reference for the Effective Organisation Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Management Committee from the start of the next municipal year.*
- iii. Note the abolition of the Young People’s Working Group with a recommendation to Cabinet for the retention of a Mansion House Advisory Group.*
- iv. Welcome the establishment of a Corporate Parenting Board and to agree that membership should be formalised at each annual meeting.*
- v. Agree that the Procurement Strategy, the HR Strategy and the Risk Management Strategy no longer be treated as part of the Council’s policy framework.*
- vi. Agree to the removal of the HR Procedure Rules and the ICT Procedure Rules from the Constitution.*
- vii. Retain the requirement for Officer decisions to be recorded within the Officer decision log with an amendment to the Constitutional wording to record only the decisions which the decision makers consider to be exceptionally noteworthy.*
- viii. Remove provisions for pre-decision call in.”*

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in Minute 54 of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting held on 13 February 2012 be approved.¹

B Constitutional Changes

Cllr Jeffries then moved, and Cllr Barnes seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 57 of the meeting of that committee held on 19 March 2012:

- “i) [That Council] agree to remove references to Cabinet Member decision sessions from the Constitution*
- (ii) That Council note the above comments in respect of the Mansion House and Mayoralty Advisory Group.*
- (ii) That Council note the above comments in respect of the proposed Constitutional provisions for Ward Committees.”*

Cllr Cuthbertson then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, an amendment to the recommendations, as follows:

“On page 313 of Council Papers, **removal of recommendation (i)** from the minutes.”

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

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in Minute 57 of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting held on 19 March 2012 be approved.²

Action Required

1&2. Make the necessary amendments to the
Constitution

AD

72. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

As Vice Chair of the Standards Committee, Cllr Scott moved, and Cllr Taylor seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 18 of the meeting of that committee held on 16 March 2012:

“[That Council] be recommended:

- (i) To adopt an interim Code of Conduct, whereby the existing Code continued with the addition of a requirement to register and declare Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, until Council was in a position to adopt a new Code at its meeting on 19 July 2012.
- (ii) To establish a joint Standards Committee with parish councils. The membership to be as follows:
 - 4 City of York Councillors (one from each of the main political groups)
 - 3 Parish Councillors with voting rights (nominations to be made by the Local Association)
- (iii) The Standards Committee to have the power to co-opt non-voting community members if this benefits the work of the Committee.
- (iv) The Chair of the Committee to be appointed by the Committee at its first meeting of the municipal year.
- (v) That two independent persons be appointed to undertake the functions set out in the Act and the draft procedures.”

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in Minute 18 of the Standards Committee meeting held on 16 March 2012 be approved. ¹.

Action Required

1. Adopt the interim code and establish a joint committee.

AD

73. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A Report of the Scrutiny Management Committee

Council received a report from Councillor Galvin, Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee, on the work of the committee.

B Amalgamation of the Effective Organisation and Scrutiny Management Committees

Cllr Galvin then moved, and Cllr Alexander seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 17 of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Committee held on 27 February 2012:

- “(i) [That Council] approves the proposed merger of Scrutiny Management Committee and Effective Organisation Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (ii) [That Council] approves the terms of reference as revised by any applicable comments received by the Chair and other Members of this Committee and taking into account the comments detailed above.”

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in Minute 17 of the Scrutiny Management Committee meeting held on 27 February 2012 be approved.¹

Action Required

1. Proceed with merger and arrangement of future meetings.

DS

74. REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER

Council received a written report from Cllr Crisp, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion.

Notice had been received of eighteen questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The first four questions were put and answered as follows and Members agreed to receive written answers to their remaining questions, as set out below:

- (i) From Cllr Gillies
“Will you be allocating extra funding for Illuminating York, and if so how much?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“No.”

- (ii) From Cllr Burton
“Can the Cabinet Member inform Members what is happening concerning public art at West Offices?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“The developer’s contribution has enabled the public art element of the new headquarters to be secured. I have ensured that this contribution is used to support and develop the work of our local creative sector. From the inception of the public art work we have focused on ensuring that new and emerging talented artists from York and Yorkshire have the opportunity and support to contribute works to our new headquarters. Their brief is not only to make the public spaces welcoming and friendly but also to delight.”

We are working with six York and Yorkshire artists and John Newling, Emeritus professor of Public Art at

Nottingham Trent University. While I cannot yet unveil the details of the works I can say that they range from glass pieces through to digital and light works. I am a member of the Public Art Steering Group and have been closely involved since the selection of the artists in steering the work and ensuring the budgets are kept to. There have been some delays as there inevitably are with building projects but I have been working with the staff team and the artist to make sure all obstacles of this nature have been overcome.

John Newling is working with the Staff team at the council to continue the creative legacy of this project. He has kindly offered to organise a session for Council Members if we would like to attend.”

(iii) From Cllr Aspden

“Can the Cabinet member outline which events in the York 800 programme would not have happened if it had not been York 800 and which would have occurred anyway?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“While I have many powers I cannot see into alternative universes. As a City of Festivals we have many fantastic events year on year but the response in support of York 800 has been fantastic from all across the creative cultural and voluntary sector in terms of new events.

As we are only a third of the way through the year it will be hard to answer this accurately but I would hope by the end of 2012 everyone in the city and a good many of our visitors will have experienced and enjoyed York 800 activities. This morning I launched the York Stories project and we have already got the website populated with stories from across the city. Cllr Aspden could check out the website for this www.yorkstories2012.com or the York 800 page on the City of Festivals website www.york800.com. I can assure him that the York800 anniversary has inspired a great many people to be come involved in events and activities in the city.

We do have at least three new events coming in each week so given we are only in March it is impossible to

know how many events will be added for York 800 alone.”

(iv) From Cllr Gillies

“As Blackpool was being actively promoted in respect of Illuminating York, why is there no update or has the link been deemed inappropriate due to the criticism of the illumination offer by the residents and landlady’s of the resort last year?”

Cabinet Member replied:

“The link has not been deemed inappropriate, other than by the Leader of the main opposition.

There has been no update as yet to Members as I have been working with officers to establish the extent to which York will benefit from our Blackpool collaboration.

To date, I can confirm Blackpool will be working with us to provide lightworks and projectors for Illuminating York 2012, worth at least £15k.

So there is an obvious benefit to the city.”

(v) From Cllr Barnes

“What does the Cabinet Member consider to be the main pressures for leisure and culture, both locally and nationally?”

Reply:

“This is a challenging time for culture both nationally and locally. The government's deficit reduction plan is going too far and too fast. And my fear is that arts and culture will suffer incredibly from those cuts.

The protection of my own portfolio is made especially difficult:

- by cuts from the Arts Council, whose own budget has been cut by 30%*
- with the abolition of the Regional Development Agencies, which helped draw in investment and stimulate creative growth in our regions - putting great*

financial pressure on our tourism partners Visit York and Welcome to Yorkshire.

- *with the ending of the Future Jobs Fund which helped young people get work in the creative industries.*

Public spending cuts will potentially mean that some children just won't ever get the chance to develop their creative potential.

The reality is that local government has to make really tough choices. Some will argue that, now the good times are over, arts are a luxury we can no longer afford.

We must sustain our commitment to tourism, sports, culture and the arts as they are at the heart of young people's lives, and the life of our communities.

The Olympics are a huge boost to participation in sport and so it's disappointing – after the build up of children and young people playing sport in school – to see the School Sport Partnership abolished and central government funding for school sport cut by 60%.

That is so short-sighted, especially when you consider the importance of sport not just for enjoyment but for health and in bringing families and communities together.

We must do what we can locally to support our schools and communities as they try and make up for the axing of the school sports partnerships.

There is a clear need especially in difficult times to encourage and nurture York's burgeoning creative industries which are key to our economic vitality and a key driver for tourism – which is a huge provider of jobs, 1.3 million nationally and worth £105 billion to the UK economy each year.

This administration is working closely with the creative industries in York to ensure we do our bit to support the aspirations and growth of that industry and medium for the future.”

- (vi) From Cllr Gillies
“What Government cuts have you implemented?”

Reply:

“I have implemented my portfolio’s share of the Government’s funding cuts to the council for the period 2012/13 – 2013/14.

Members attending the Budget Meeting in February will recall clearly how the budget was set and if they don’t, can easily reference this information on the council’s website. I don’t intend to take up Members’ time going through how the Government cuts have impacted York as it would take too long.”

- (vii) From Cllr Gillies
“Give an example of being outward looking and innovative and what have you contributed?”

Reply:

“There are a number of areas in which we have been outward looking and innovative, from the sharing of ideas and best practice with tourism, leisure and culture leaders beyond York’s boundaries to our collaboration with Blackpool.

Whilst the main opposition Leader might scoff, the collaboration is a mutually beneficial one. However, if he has any inspirational ideas for collaborations with the likes of Gothenburg, then I’m all ears. I’m happy to work with anyone if I think it will benefit our city.

I have contributed to York being seen as a city awakening after having had no involvement in influencing regional and national decision-making for a number of years. York is innovating in the way we do things, and I am speaking regularly with people to tell them about how York is open for business, particularly to those in the arts and tourism sectors.”

- (viii) From Cllr Doughty
“On Page 332 of the Council Agenda, you indicate that the Council has supported 55 Voluntary Sports Clubs in

the City through Officer time and expertise to gain nationally recognised accreditation. Can you give an indication of how many of these were supported by Ward Committee funding?"

Reply:

"Two of the 55 accredited sports clubs have received ward committee funding this year (Heworth Cricket Club and Carr Vikings Junior Football Club), a total of £2,500. Wards will of course still be able to use their ward allocation to fund their local sports clubs in the future if they consider it a local priority."

(ix) From Cllr Ayre

"Given the Cabinet Member's previous comments to The Press that, "We have a concessionary policy in place whenever we make a charge for something which aids those who are disadvantaged, so I cannot see why this would be any more complicated if people put their minds to it. The elderly and disabled should be included because many of them enjoy their trips out, and it would benefit them by ensuring they do not feel isolated," can she confirm how many residents have received a concessionary discount for York Cards since May 2011?"

Reply:

"The current YorkCard system was put in place by Cllr Ayre so he will recall deciding not to provide any concessions when the council was in a position to do so. I am pleased to say, however, that active promotion of the YorkCard since May has ensured excellent take up with more than half of all young people in the city now having YorkCards.

I will review the budgetary position periodically to see if the concession can be introduced at any stage in the future."

(x) From Cllr Orrell

"We welcome the introduction of cafes to York and Acomb Explore and the investment in refurbishing and

the addition of self issue machines to branch libraries.
Can the Cabinet member confirm when this was agreed and who was Cabinet Member at the time?"

Reply:

"The refurbishment is an investment by this administration which has resulted in the cafes now making a profit, when previously they did not.

I have made sure that the installation of self-issue machines has been accompanied by additional improvements to the layout of libraries; part of our commitment to ensuring high customer service standards.

As to when the cafes were introduced, it may have been during the time as Executive Member of the former Member for Wheldrake ward. His time as Executive Member was one of very few highlights for the former administration.

However, my focus is on the positive changes this administration is making to the way the council runs its services after the electorate passed its own judgment on the previous administration's record."

(xi) From Cllr Reid

"How can the Cabinet Member claim to have supported 55 voluntary sports club when her budget will strip DRR from many costing them thousands?"

Reply:

"There will be no change whatsoever for voluntary sector sports clubs arising from the budget set in February. They will continue to receive DRR as normal."

(xii) From Cllr Barton

"What is the value of the voluntary sector Transformation Fund and what criteria will be used to decide upon the recipients and values of the awards?"

Reply:

"The value of the fund was £100k. The following criteria were established:

Neighbourhood Working grants – up to £5k

New ways of Neighbourhood Working

- *Extend access and participation by encouraging more people to become actively involved in the delivery and shaping of community or neighbourhood services.*
- *Improve volunteering initiatives / infrastructure, encouraging residents to give up their time for the benefit of the community.*

Addressing Gaps in Provision

- *Supporting voluntary and community organisations to provide valuable new services and activities locally.*
- *Enabling voluntary and community organisations to trial new services and approaches at a neighbourhood level.*

Improving the Quality of Life

- *Supporting schemes that significantly improve people's opportunities, welfare or quality of life through voluntary action, local projects or initiatives.*
- *To support other capacity building activities by which local community and voluntary groups can contribute to the regeneration of their local area.*

Bursary Grants – up to £3k

Consortia / Collaboration

- *Support for voluntary and community sector organisations to 'supersize' themselves, e.g. to form consortia, to bid for larger contracts, to become contract ready.*
- *Support for consortia of voluntary and community sector organisations to access social impact bonds and other new forms of community investment and finance.*

Service Restructuring

- *Support for voluntary and community organisations to demonstrate and implement cost savings through co-location reducing the burden of rents and running costs.*
- *Support for voluntary and community organisations to consider restructuring, including consolidation of*

services, or formalised mergers with other bodies or groups.

Income Generation

- *Support for voluntary organisations to undertake ‘market testing’ in preparation for the launch of a new type of service or activity.*
- *Support for activities that develop new, sustainable income streams for charities or voluntary sector organisations over the longer term.*
- *Support the creation of new Community Interest Companies, Co-operatives and Social Enterprises that are able to offer alternative, viable service delivery models and mechanisms.”*

(xiii) From Cllr Gillies

“What tangible change has been achieved since York became a City of Sanctuary?”

Reply:

“York has not yet become a City of Sanctuary, though I hope it will; rather it is seeking City of Sanctuary Status from the National City of Sanctuary Movement.

Good progress has been made so far. The City of Sanctuary Working Group has now been formally established, and constituted as an independent community organisation in its own right - City of Sanctuary York. Over the next year there will be a clear workplan of events and activities promoting the objectives of City of Sanctuary York and encouraging new members to join the movement.

The Council is likely to be able to help in a number of practical ways, for example:

- *Providing access to information and signposting people to help*
- *Providing meeting space with resources such as PCs and telephones*
- *Displaying signs to welcome people seeking sanctuary*
- *Creating a central drop-in as a focal point for friendship, food, support and practical advice*

- *Facilitating access to leisure and cultural activity*
- *Creating fact sheets for officers, members and the public*
- *Creating a pool of people with a range of languages to act as voluntary interpreters.*
- *Ensuring access to good quality legal support*
- *Facilitating community conflict resolution services for areas experiencing tension over new arrivals (already happening)*
- *Civic receptions for new arrivals in the City (already happening)*
- *Designing workshops for schools on sanctuary issues*
- *Facilitating speaker events for local people to hear from those seeking sanctuary directly about their experiences*
- *Providing ways for people to feel involved in the community*

None of this will cost much at all but could make a real difference to newcomers arriving in the city who don't know where to turn."

(xiv) From Cllr Gillies

"Give an example of local community tensions and how Community Conversation training will assist?"

Reply:

"Following the training colleagues in York Racial Equality Network are currently using community conversations in an area of Heworth as there have been some tensions there. Discussions have started with some foreign students at York St John University to explore whether a community conversations approach can usefully improve their experience of living in York as they have had some experiences that were isolating and racially abusive."

(xv) From Cllr Doughty

"I am interested to learn more about the Voluntary Sector Transformation Fund that has been set up (refer page 335). Can you tell Council more about the innovative schemes you claim have benefited, who/what

each scheme is and by how much each has benefited financially?”

Reply:

“The following bursary grants have been made:

Brunswick Organic Nursery: *Developing a variety of new social enterprise opportunities for people with learning disabilities – £3k*

York Mind: *Expanding the York Mind design and print social enterprise, supporting people with mental health problems to access employment opportunities - £3k*

York Wheels: *To investigate new forms and mechanisms of voluntary sector led community transport solutions - £760*

Healing Clinic: *The lead organisation of a consortia of voluntary sector groups - the bursary grant supported the launch of the new Social Enterprise Pop-Up Shop on Micklegate - £3k*

Melbourne Centre: *In support of the Micklegate Pop-up Shop - to provide managerial input, and supervision / support for clients with learning disabilities - £3k*

Disabled Workers Co-operative: *A grant to enable the co-operative management team to be mentored by expert social enterprise advisors, and also to secure expert mentoring around sales and marketing strategies - £3k*

The following neighbourhood grants have been made:

York Unifying and Multicultural Initiative: *To map the activities and actions of all BME organisations in the City and develop a coherent, multi agency approach to addressing cohesion in York, shaping and developing new services and solutions - £3,525*

YREN: *To raise residents’ awareness of harassment, victimisation and discrimination – and how to develop new community led solutions to combat these issues - £4,920*

One&Other: To launch and develop a new electronic community and voluntary sector e-zine, investigating how different mechanisms by which CYC and other agencies are able to address resident concerns and shape services accordingly - £5k

York City of Sanctuary: To help launch and establish the resident-led City of Sanctuary initiative in York - and to investigate potential new way of delivering a variety of CYC services supporting marginalised and vulnerable people - £5k

Millers Yard: To establish and develop new neighbourhood schemes and community events and services led by a community interest company - £3,175k

Wilberforce Trust: To launch a number of new social enterprises led by people who are blind or partially sighted - £5k

Space 109: To establish a new stitching / sewing co-operative and social enterprise working with marginalised groups and individuals - £5k

Friends of St. Nicholas Fields: To create Community Greenspace Champions across the City, working closely with the CYC Environment team to enhance, monitor and preserve green spaces throughout the City - £5k

In addition, £30k was allocated to York CVS to sustain the activities of the Volunteer Centre.

We were therefore able to pay out a total £82,380 – this was as much as was practicable during this financial year.”

(xvi) From Cllr Healey

“Regarding the Voluntary Sector Transformation Fund, can the Cabinet Member describe how this fund’s aims and awarding of funds guidelines have been developed and implemented since she took office in May 2011 and how these actions have met the original purpose, as outlined in the 2011/12 Budget Council papers of a £93,000 provision (plus a subsequent increase of

£7,000), which was to fund “pump-prime initiatives in the voluntary sector which will enable council costs to be reduced in future years?”

Reply:

“In July this year Cabinet established this as a ‘pump priming’ fund for the voluntary sector, with the aim of building the capacity of the sector to deliver against priorities identified in the Council Plan. The objectives set were:

- *To create a strong, successful volunteering centre: To enable the continued work of the Volunteer Centre operating at 3 days per week and to provide new services such as “time banking”, volunteering pilots, support for volunteering as a route into employability, and volunteering programmes for vulnerable adults.*
- *Voluntary Sector Bursary Scheme - New Business Models: To enable voluntary organizations to trial or develop new business models including trading companies and fundraising initiatives, including for groups who need to expand existing activity.*
- *Voluntary Sector Projects – Neighbourhood Based Initiatives: To enable the voluntary sector to establish projects and initiatives that directly respond to community need evidenced through area working.*

In operating the fund I established a voluntary sector steering group to give me expert advice on developing the criteria, and to advise on both individual applications and on opportunities to encourage the voluntary sector to work together and to stimulate appropriate bids.

The grants have made a significant impact on growing the voluntary sector especially through the creation on new social enterprises and the support provided for volunteering.”

(xvii) From Cllr Ayre

“Given the Cabinet Members aim to gain “Excellent” status in EFLG will she confirm whether after 50% of the equalities staff are cut there will still be a named equalities officer?”

Reply:

“I have no idea where Cllr Ayre gets the idea that half of the staff who deal with equalities will be cut. On the contrary, the review of the NMU will ensure that equalities becomes an integral part of the function of that team. All of the team will be concerned with equalities whether or not it appears in their job title (as I’m sure in some cases it will). I intend to introduce Community Contracts with all our communities of interest to ensure that their needs are identified and met in the future. The NMU will be instrumental in this.”

(xviii) From Cllr Ayre

“Will the Cabinet Member please confirm how much has been spent by this administration on external “equalities consultants” as part of her plan to reach level “excellence”?

Reply:

“This administration has not used “equalities consultants”. We have, however, had some vacancies in our business support team and a long-term sickness absence in the equalities team and this has meant that we needed to bring in an extra pair of hands. We have used the funding freed up by vacancies to employ a single specialist, Arif Sain, to help us put together a work plan to get us to Excellent level. This (£16.5k) has proved an excellent use of our resource as Arif was able to bring skills and insights not available within the Council.”

75. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- Without Walls – Minutes – 8 February 2012
- York NHS Trust – Minutes – 21 December 2011
- Fire Authority – Minutes – 7 December 2011
- Safer York Partnerships – Minutes – 30 January 2012

- York & North Yorkshire Waste Management – Minutes – 30 January 2012

No questions had been submitted to representatives on outside bodies.

76. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

(i) Local Housing Allowance

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

“Council expresses concern over the introduction of the Local Housing Allowance which will financially impact York residents on low incomes.

Council notes that the allowance is sub-regionally calculated which results in an average allowance that falls short of even the lowest 30% priced private sector housing costs in the City.

Council is concerned that:

- a. many residents will be faced with possible homelessness, with the cost falling on the Council.
- b. there will be no housing for low paid workers who will be forced out of the City.
- c. the Housing Benefit cut will result in poor social cohesion and a lack of mixed communities.

Council requests the Chief Executive to write to Grant Shapps requesting that areas of high rent, such as the City of York Council, are given special consideration so that the Local Housing Allowance is not affected by lower rent in the sub - regional area.”

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

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

(ii) Neighbourhood Working Funding

It was moved by Cllr Richardson and seconded by Cllr Galvin that:

“Council acknowledges that the changes to ward funding provisions incorporated as part of CYC’s new “Neighbourhood Working” model will have the effect of reducing ward funding to York’s outer villages and will therefore significantly impact those activities this funding has previously supported, in particular local youth provisions in rural and suburban areas which rely on ward budget grants for most of their operating expenses.

Council therefore asks officers to prepare two reports for Cabinet:

Firstly, to examine how and where replacement money can be found to continue to fund youth provisions in York’s outer wards, given that these wards will no longer be able to rely upon ward-specific grants to fund their activities; and

Secondly, to review the issue of the funding of youth provisions on a council-wide basis to correct any anomalies which have developed over time between the funding of youth organisations within the city centre wards and those in the council’s outer wards in order to insure parity of funding for youth provisions throughout the city.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be not approved.

(iii) Waste Collection and Recycling

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

“Council notes the significant improvement in the proportion of waste that has been recycled under the previous Liberal Democrat administration, from 12% in 2003 to 45% in 2011. Council supports the principle that waste collection and recycling should be convenient and fair to residents across the city.

In light of the fact that the Budget 2012/13 has deleted the provision of a Recycling and Reuse Centre in the west of the city, Council requests that the Cabinet halts the closure plan for Beckfield Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre. Council also supports the principle of the provision of a free receptacle for the collection of waste to all residents across the city requests that the provision of free black bin bags should continue to all areas of the city where wheeled bins are not in use.”

Under his constitutional authority, the Lord Mayor then referred the above motion to Cabinet for urgent consideration and requested a report on the associated implications.

RESOLVED: That the above motion be referred for urgent consideration to Cabinet on 3 April 2012 together with an officer report addressing the full implications. ³.

(iv) Regional Government

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

“Council believes that people and the economy do not recognise authority boundaries.

The Government’s enforced demise of the Regional Development Agencies and the drive towards Local Enterprise Partnerships have undermined the cohesion of the recognised regions and the counties.

Council resolves to lead a campaign for regional government for Yorkshire and the Humber.”

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

“In the second paragraph - Delete “enforced demise” replace with “removal”

Delete all words “undermined the cohesion of the recognised regions and the counties”, replace with “changed the relationship between recognised regions and the local authorities within them.”

In the third paragraph - Add Council resolves to lead a campaign for regional government “with appropriate powers” for Yorkshire and the Humber.”

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

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

RESOLVED: That the above motion be approved. ⁴.

Action Required

1. Write to Grant Shapps requesting special consideration in respect of Local Housing Allowance. KE
3. Prepare report, republish agenda and circulate. JP, RR
4. Promote campaign for regional government for Yorkshire and the Humber. KE

77. QUESTIONS TO THE CABINET LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 10(C)

Thirty five questions had been submitted to the Cabinet Leader and Cabinet 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 Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Doughty:
“With reference to the Cabinet meeting of 6 March, Agenda item 7 (Neighbourhood Working – A New Approach), Part 7(d), Page 46 refers to 'Locating staff within wards, making them a 'hub' for local information so they can work more effectively with communities.' How will this work in reality when staffing numbers in the

Neighbourhood Management Unit have been significantly reduced?”

Reply:

“There are clearly assumptions being made here which are not in any way founded in fact, as the staffing review is yet to be undertaken by the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods in consultation with myself.

As I don't know what the new structure of the NMU will be yet, meaning you also don't know, then the second part of your question is not relevant.

The staff team will work effectively with other ward-based staff such as estate managers in Housing and Street Environment Officers sharing their community contacts and streamlining working arrangements. In this way they will share intelligence and information. The ward team meetings will provide additional opportunity for this. The new arrangements represent a much more efficient use of staff time and the Council's resources.”

(ii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Doughty:

“Part 7(e) of the report at Agenda item 7 of the Cabinet meeting of 6 March, (Neighbourhood Working – A New Approach), refers to 'introducing Facebook and Twitter and regularly getting messages out into the community.' I acknowledge social media might be a useful tool to assist in engaging with what will probably be a small number of younger people in the City but how does the Cabinet Member envisage the majority of the City's residents will be kept informed, particularly as the number of assisted Ward meetings and publications are being cut?”

Reply:

“Committee meetings per year. Councillors will be assisted at every meeting of the Ward Committee - up to 3 per year. One will be the Ward Committee AGM and a further 2 meetings will be arranged if requested by the Ward Committees.

This is not a significant change to the number of meetings and publications that presently exist, albeit the formats will be different. And although many people may not use

Facebook and Twitter, many more people are online and will access information through the council's website."

(iii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Doughty:

"With reference to the £130K portion of the Neighbourhoods budget, can the Cabinet please explain if a fee or percentage will be payable to the 'standalone third sector management organisation' who will be administering the bids and funding? How much will this be and will it be funded from the £130K portion?"

Reply:

"A fee will be payable to the third sector management organisation. We are currently seeking tenders for this work to ensure that the fee is as competitive as possible. This will be a more efficient arrangement for the Council taking away the need for officer time spent monitoring service level agreements. The fee will be more than balanced out by the efficiency savings created."

(iv) To the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, from Cllr D'Agorne:

"Which gritting routes and locations are to be removed from the network to achieve the budget savings and what criteria will be applied to determine which ward funded grit bins should be retained or removed?"

Reply:

"After every winter there is a full review of the winter maintenance programme for the coming year based on the outcomes of the previous year. This is published in the revised Winter Maintenance Manual. The changes to the gritting routes will be considered as part of this review. The Labour administration has put in place a contingency fund for bad weather of £250,000, meaning that York should always be able to cope in periods of very bad weather. This is a reversal of the decision taken last year by the Liberal Democrats to remove any contingency funds."

With regard to ward funded grit bins, they will stay out during the summer. A decision on the criteria for the future allocation of salt bins has yet to be taken."

(v) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D'Agorne:

"What further delays are anticipated in implementing Labour's manifesto commitment to introduce a 20mph limit in all residential areas in the city?"

Reply:

"We have in fact been making important progress. As you will be aware a 20mph steering group has been set up.

- A revised and reduced signing approach has been worked out and needed to be agreed with the Police as well as myself. The new approach will significantly reduce the number of signs required across the city.*
- Discussions with the Police have taken place regarding the approach to be taken as it is important to have Police 'buy-in' and support for the project. The Police initially had a number of concerns but I'm very pleased to say are now supportive of the proposed policy approach, and of the roll-out across the city and will be willing to work with us as part of the delivery.*
- I would acknowledge that progress hasn't been as fast as I'd have liked, but following previous year's budget cuts by the former administration, resources within the team have been stretched with a number of projects being progressed by the same member of staff.*
- I have therefore discussed and agreed with officers the intended appointment of a project manager for the city wide delivery to expedite delivery, now we are clear on the basis of our new approach. We are looking to set up web pages to assist with the consultation and have everything on line to view – timetables, maps, consultation results etc, this will take time to construct/populate but is a more fundamental part of the project once we start to deal with larger areas of the city and raising awareness across the city as a whole.*

• *I'm also pleased to say the consultation leaflets on the extended Bishopthorpe Road and South Bank scheme is at the printers and will be distributed at the end of next week. Subject to the response, the Traffic Regulation Orders should follow in May and implementation in June.*"

(vi) To the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, from Cllr Galvin:

"Regarding the Beckfield Lane Waste Disposal Site, how many accidents to members of the public have there been in the past ten years and what were the circumstances of said accidents (if any)?"

Reply:

"There have been a number of vehicle related accidents, bumps due to vehicles manoeuvring on the tight site and others hitting the height barrier.

A good Health and Safety Management System identifies the risk and looks to remove it whenever possible before it happens. Previous incidents are irrelevant to the potential risk."

(vii) To the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, from Cllr Galvin:

"Has the likely increase in fly tipping near the Beckfield Lane Waste Disposal Site been considered as a result of its closure and if so what measures will be taken to deal with this eventuality?"

Reply:

"Fly tipping has been considered as a risk as part of the decision to make the savings. It will be closely monitored and prosecutions carried out where offenders can be identified."

(viii) To the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, from Cllr Galvin:

"Have there been any consultations or surveys of users of the Beckfield Lane Waste Disposal facility prior to the decision to close this site?"

Reply:

“No. We are only required to provide one HWRC and we will still be providing two such facilities. As we are not removing the services to residents, there is no requirement to consult and budget savings are needed to be made immediately.”

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

“Could the cabinet member tell us if she would agree that development of an attractive archive tourist/research centre in the centre of York incorporating the City Archives and elements of the Borthwick Institute and the Minster Archive collection would create an asset for both residents and visitors to the city?”

Reply:

“I am pleased to be able to confirm that the Council is already in the process of developing a new, state of the art archive and research centre as part of the phase 2 development of our popular York Explore.

We have received development funding totalling £107,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund with the aim of submitting a £1.3m bid to the HLF later on in the summer to take forward the 'Gateway to History' project. This will transform the first floor of York Explore Library Learning Centre into a purpose-designed home for the city's archives and local history collection - with an entire new floor on the east wing to house the archives themselves. We are aiming to receive a final HLF decision in December this year, so that construction work can commence in spring 2013.

This is excellent timing, coinciding as it does with York's plans to mark its 800th anniversary as a self-governing city. This represents a big step towards realising our vision that the archives should be accessible to everyone and a source of pride for the whole city. The new facility will enable us to show off these nationally important collections to our visitors.

As the name suggests, the facility will provide a gateway to all of the city's collections including at the Minster and the Borthwick. This does not mean physically moving those collections as they both have their own excellent facilities already, but it does mean signposting users and

working together so that users receive a seamless experience. We are already actively cooperating with the other institutions on matters such as storage, access and collecting policy.”

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

“In preparing the cost estimates for the Community Stadium, have the pre- during- and post build salaries/expenses of the senior CYC officer responsible for delivery of the stadium and the cost of other officers working on the stadium project (as all or part of their responsibilities) been calculated and if so what is the total sum and over what period of time has this figure been calculated?”

Reply:

“Yes the costs have been calculated. The project costs for delivery of the project are estimated at £750k. The council’s project management costs are included in this figure. The estimate for CYC’s direct costs within this is £410k over a 3 year period. They include the following posts (which would not necessarily be full time dedicated posts):

- Project Manager (x1)*
- Assistant Project Managers (x2)*
- Administrative support (x1)”*

(xi) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Barton:

“Assuming the Community Stadium project goes ahead, who will finance the additional training pitch which will be required and where will it be located?”

Reply:

“An options paper is presented as part of the business case which is included with the Council papers. This sets out three deliverable options that would provide both a training facility and a reserve grade pitch. All can be delivered within the £500k capital budget identified in the business case. The options in the report are as follows:

- YCFC’s training ground at Wigginton Road.*

- *York Sports Village at Heslington East Campus*
- *Acorn Rugby Club, Acomb*

Officers are currently exploring a further option with York City Knights at York College.”

(xii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Barton:

“What is the estimated working-life expectancy of the Waterworld complex and what plans have been made to update its outdated technical requirements in the short term prior to replacement of the current facility?”

Reply:

“A full condition survey was commissioned by the Council last year and a copy is available should any Member wish to view it. It noted that the buildings and site are in a good condition commensurate with their age. Only the changing areas were identified as needing immediate attention. The procurement exercise that I have approved will seek investment in the building to address these immediate issues as well as longer term replacement of the electrical and mechanical system and general updating of the building to maintain its appeal to customers.”

(xiii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Healey:

“Regarding the proposed Community Stadium, what financial incentives and/or subsidies if any will be made available by CYC to the successful bidder for the Operations Management contract for the stadium?”

Reply:

“No financial incentives or subsidies are proposed. It is proposed that the operation of the stadium should deliver a surplus. This is set out in the procurement paper that was approved at the Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion’s Decision Session in January 2012. It is also set out in the Business Case presented to Cabinet on 6th March 2012 and included in the Council agenda papers.”

(xiv) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Healey:

“Regarding the Community Stadium, what financial liabilities will rest with CYC should either or both the football or rugby clubs become unable to meet their contractual obligations regarding the stadium and what steps will be put in place to limit the liability of CYC in this regard?”

Reply:

“As part of the procurement process, it is proposed to transfer some of this risk to the overall operator of the wider leisure contract. The detail of how this will work will be explored as part of the Competitive Dialogue process.

The business case has been developed using prudent projections. Furthermore, a contingency has been built in. A number of scenarios relating to the clubs being unable to pay their rent are covered in the risk analysis. The likelihood of both clubs going out of business for a sustained period is low.

The ultimate responsibility will rest with the council, although the business model for the stadium is designed so the income streams for the facility are spread and not reliant solely on the sports clubs.”

(xv) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Healey:

“Regarding the Community Stadium, should the NHS or the University of York St John fail to take part as tenants of the stadium, have potential alternative tenants been identified and have preliminary discussions been held?”

Reply:

“The Council is committed to delivering the innovative partnerships set out between York St John University, the NHS Hospital Trust, and other stakeholders. Heads of Terms have been agreed with five separate organisations. The Council has also received independent commercial advice (provided by Lawrence Hannah) that confirms the potential attractiveness of the accommodation for future tenants and the scope to re-let it. Market testing undertaken by the Council also identified that there would be considerable commercial interest in the ‘hub’ area of the stadium. If one or more of the tenants do not proceed

with the proposals there are a number of alternative options that could be developed.”

(xvi) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Runciman:

“Will the leader please confirm the total reduction in the core government grant anticipated for the financial year 2012/13? And the subsequent reduction anticipated for the year 2013/14?”

Reply:

“In 2012/13, £5m, and for 2013/14, the figure is not yet known, but no doubt it will be significant once again.”

(xvii) To the Cabinet Leader, from Cllr Runciman:

“Will the leader confirm that all officer and other supporting reports to be considered by Cabinet members will continue to be made available for public scrutiny on the Councils web site at least 1 week before the decision is scheduled to be taken?”

Reply:

“Yes.”

(xviii) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Hyman:

“Given that the planning inspector has confirmed that it is not the case that areas of search will not be touched “for at least 25 years”, will the Cabinet member now undertake a full public consultation on the use of Green Belt land?”

Reply:

“The initial correspondence from the Planning Inspector has centred around questions regarding the approach taken to a variety of issues, including in relation to the Spatial Strategy, approach to accommodating growth and the Green Belt. The Inspector has not yet made recommendations to the Council which would pre-empt the Exploratory Meeting and formal Examination process and I suggest we wait for these first before we consider any more precipitate actions.”

(xix) To the Cabinet Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Hyman:

“Would the Cabinet member for City Strategy state when he now expects that new low emission buses will be introduced onto stage carriage services in the City?”

Reply:

“I can’t give a date tonight. Whilst there is no strict definition of ‘low emission buses’, I’m assuming Coun. Hyman means buses that have significantly lower emissions of nitrogen dioxide, particulates and carbon dioxide than conventional diesel buses currently operating in the York fleet.

Therefore low emission buses would include those fuelled by hybrid diesel and electric, compressed and liquefied natural gas (CNG and LPG) and biogas.

The issue of moving to low emission buses is clearly an important one, but is potentially going to require substantial investment, as vehicles and maintenance support charges are not cheap. It is therefore not a five minute job. We will need to demonstrate a clear case to the companies to justify these levels of investment.

We have commissioned, and work is underway on a low emission zone feasibility (LEZ) study for buses to determine the reduction in emissions possible by upgrading the emission standards of York’s bus fleet. This will assist the Council in meeting health-based air quality targets across the city. The results of this study should be available later this year, including a cost-benefit analysis. This should help us, working with the main bus operators, to introduce low emissions buses into York at the earliest opportunity.”

(xx) To the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Firth:

“Would the Cabinet member state how much the City of York Council has contributed towards the costs of providing present "free" WiFi access in the City Centre?”

Reply:

“The reference to it being free is to users of the service, rather than that there being no cost associated with setting it up for the council, as I’m sure Cllr. Firth is aware.

The cost to the council was £30k with no ongoing costs.”

(xxi) To the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, from Cllr Reid:

“Would the Cabinet member list for each Ward Committee in the City the votes cast for, and estimated costs of, each of the 10 most popular schemes balloted on in the autumn by residents and which of these schemes is likely to get the go ahead given the reduced level of funding now being made available?”

Reply:

“These matters are not within my portfolio.”

(xxii) To the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, from Cllr Orrell:

“What budgetary assumptions has the Cabinet member made on a likely increase in accident claims arising from the reduction in highways maintenance expenditure agreed by the Council at its last meeting?”

Reply:

“The council is fully insured against accident claims so there will not be a short term direct impact on the revenue budget as a result in any changes in the claims profile.”

(xxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, from Cllr Reid:

“Would the cabinet member state the number and type of lampposts that will remain to be tested and replaced at the end of the 12/13 financial year?”

Reply:

“4,500 concrete lampposts are still to be tested, in the three years from April 2013. It is unclear how many of these will need replacing until the testing is complete.

Steel lampposts will not need testing for a further three years as all those condemned or in need of testing within two years will be replaced during the current replacement programme funded by this administration.”

(xxiv) To the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, from Cllr Firth:

“What assumptions did the Cabinet member make on the additional costs which would arise at the other two

recycling centres in the City to reflect the transfer of activity from Beckfield Lane?”

Reply:

“It has been assumed that the 2,800 tonnes of waste going through Beckfield Lane at the moment will arise elsewhere in the waste stream, therefore costed within the savings. When Hazel Court was built, the total tonnages going through the three sites were over 25,000 tonnes, today it is less than 22,000 tonnes, so there is capacity in the system to accommodate the Beckfield Lane closure.”

(xxv) To the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, from Cllr Reid:

“Could the cabinet member outline the budget implications of the additional cleansing costs to address the increase in fly tipping that has been forecast by one of his colleagues?”

Reply:

“Fly tipping has been considered as a risk as part of the decision to make the savings. It will be closely monitored and prosecutions carried out where offenders can be identified.”

(xxvi) To the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, from Cllr Cuthbertson:

“Given the obvious effect on residents in the surrounding areas, why has there been no public consultation on the implications of the decision to close Beckfield Lane?”

Reply:

“We are only required to provide one Household Waste Recycling Centre and we will still be providing two such facilities. As we are not removing the services to residents, there is no requirement to consult and budget savings are needed to be made immediately.”

(xxvii) To the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, from Cllr Reid:

“Can the cabinet member confirm the total amount spent on road repairs in 2010/11, 2011/12 and the budget for 2012/13”

Reply:

“There has been so many changes to government funding, winter maintenance grants, one off grants and local political decisions that make it difficult to confirm the exact amount spent in previous years.

It is unclear from your question whether you mean revenue repairs, capital schemes, LTP improvements, or one off schemes from specific grants like cycleways, footways and bridle ways.

If you could be more specific, I will be happy to provide you with the information you require.”

(xxviii) To the Cabinet Member Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Ayre:

“Could the Cabinet member state how much rental has now been received from the organisers of last year's Christmas Grotto in Exhibition Square and say whether she plans to repeat this, or a similar event, in 2012?”

Reply:

“No, and I cannot report on something I never had any involvement with.

Cllr Ayre clearly does not yet understand my portfolio despite him being the Executive Member for a small portion of it for 2 years.

The Christmas Grotto was in no way connected to the Leisure and Culture portfolio. Information concerning the Grotto was passed on to Cllr Reid following a request many months ago when she was digging for someone to blame.

It is a great shame you did not ask Cllr Reid before wasting council's time with this rather silly question. It's the second time this council a question has been asked by a Liberal Democrat Member when a colleague already has the answer or has asked a similar or identical question.

(xxix) To the Cabinet Member Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Ayre:

“Can the Cabinet member please outline the total ward committee budget for each of the last four years and for this year?”

Reply:

“The ward committee budget for the last 4 years has been £646k each year. This year is no different.”

(xxx) To the Cabinet Member Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Ayre:

“Will the Cabinet Member confirm that all salt bins currently funded by Ward Committees will now be filled and refilled from the core budget?”

Reply:

“Certainly, all the salt bins required across all wards will be refilled from the core budget.”

(xxxii) To the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People’s Services, from Cllr Ayre:

“Will the Cabinet member please provide assurances that Hempland Kids Club will not be evicted following the public consultation on Burnholme School?”

Reply:

“Cllr. Ayre seems to be jumping to a conclusion rather rapidly. The public consultation is still ongoing and no decision has been taken as regards the future of Burnholme School.”

(xxxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People’s Services, from Cllr Aspden:

“Can the cabinet member commit to a successful future for Street Sport following the ward committee cuts?”

Reply:

“Street Sport is being retained beyond this financial year – while recognising the changes to ward funding. As from 1st April the equipment and resources of Street Sport will transfer out of the Play team to Energise. The Assets to be transferred include the Mobile Skate Park, Multi Sports Equipment the Mobile Climbing Wall and the Trailer and Ford Ranger.”

Some funding for citywide sessions has been secured for the next year, but has obviously been impacted by the Council's reduction in funding. But Play workers and Energise are actively exploring other sources of funding and looking to identify how to continue and grow the service. I am confident that, based within Energise, Street Sport – which will retain its separate identity – will continue to be a resource that is much valued by the children and young people of the city.”

(xxxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services from Cllr Cuthbertson:

“Can the cabinet member outline plans to cater for the needs of those people affected by the change in eligibility criteria from moderate to severe during the transitional period?”

Reply:

“The consultation on the proposal to move the FACS criteria from Moderate to Substantial level, not ‘Severe’ as stated by Cllr Cuthbertson, will begin by the middle of next month and it is aimed to be completed by the middle of June. Consultation is legally required and must be adequate. Letters and short questionnaires will be sent to customers and key stakeholders.

If the change is agreed the Council will undertake a Care Management review for those who are currently supported with Moderate Level needs. This review will consider whether people’s needs have changed since their last review, and if they do remain at the Moderate Level, the Council will support people to look at alternative ways that their needs can be met.

The level of savings proposed at Budget Council enables reinvestment of significant funding into the Voluntary and Community Sector to meet such needs and commissioning, after consultation, could include services to help with :

- o Shopping, domestic cleaning or laundry*
- o Supported leisure activities, social opportunities and clubs*
- o Help to get a hot meal*
- o Breaks for carers*

These suggestions are based on the support that many of those with Moderate Level needs receive presently. The Consultation will also ask if people think these are the right sort of services to support with the additional investment.”

(xxxiv) To the Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety from Cllr Orrell:

“Can the cabinet member outline what he considers his main achievement in the past year?”

Reply:

“Firstly, I am grateful to Cllr Orrell for the opportunity to highlight the achievements of the new Council’s Labour administration, following my appointment to the new post of Cabinet Member for Crime & Community Safety.

Amongst the many of these, I would particularly wish to draw attention to:

- *On day one of this Labour administration, the creation of the high level post of a Cabinet Member, dedicated to tackling crime and community safety. A manifesto commitment fulfilled !*
- *The increased use of Community Payback by the Council, which sees offenders, sentenced to community service, making reparations to our community by undertaking unpaid work of use to the community, charities and faith organisations. Another manifesto commitment fulfilled !*
- *A date has now been set for the first of the annual Crime Summits to be held on the 25th of April 2012. This will fulfil yet another manifesto commitment !*
- *Discussions with North Yorkshire Police, which are ongoing, to strengthen the Council’s Noise Patrol, with a view to implementing one further manifesto commitment.*

No doubt Cllr Orrell will wish to welcome these initiatives, which demonstrate this Labour administration’s determination to fulfil its election promises, in contrast to his own Government’s record of welching on theirs.”

(xxxv) To the Cabinet Member for Crime and Community
Safety from Cllr Orrell:

“Does the cabinet member agree that his £14,700 Special Responsibility Allowance would have more direct effect on reducing low level crime and Anti-Social Behaviour if it was used to fund Community Ranger patrols in 3 Ward Committee areas?”

Reply:

“No.”

Cllr David Horton

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.05 pm]