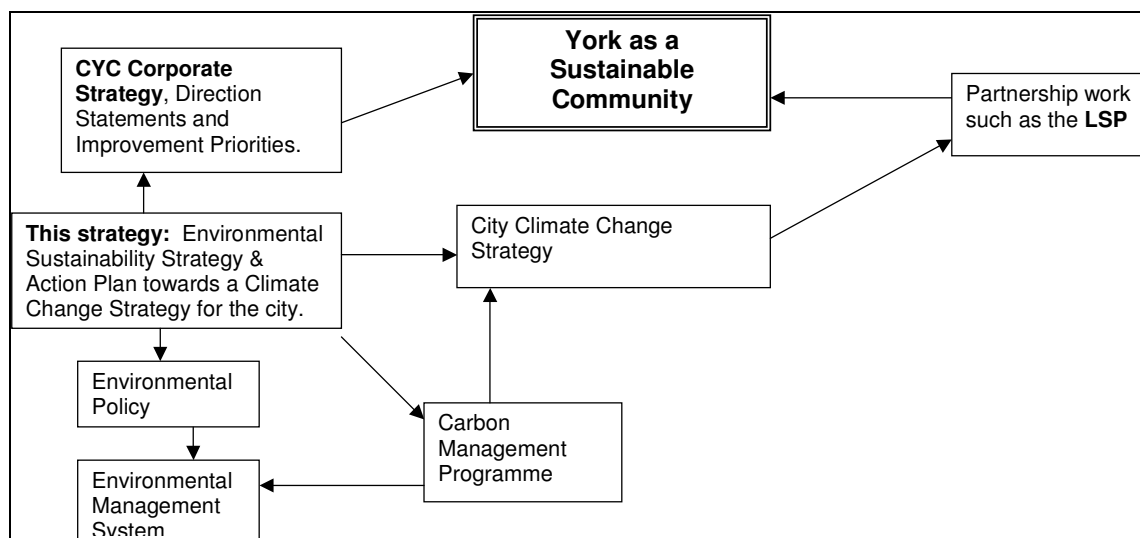


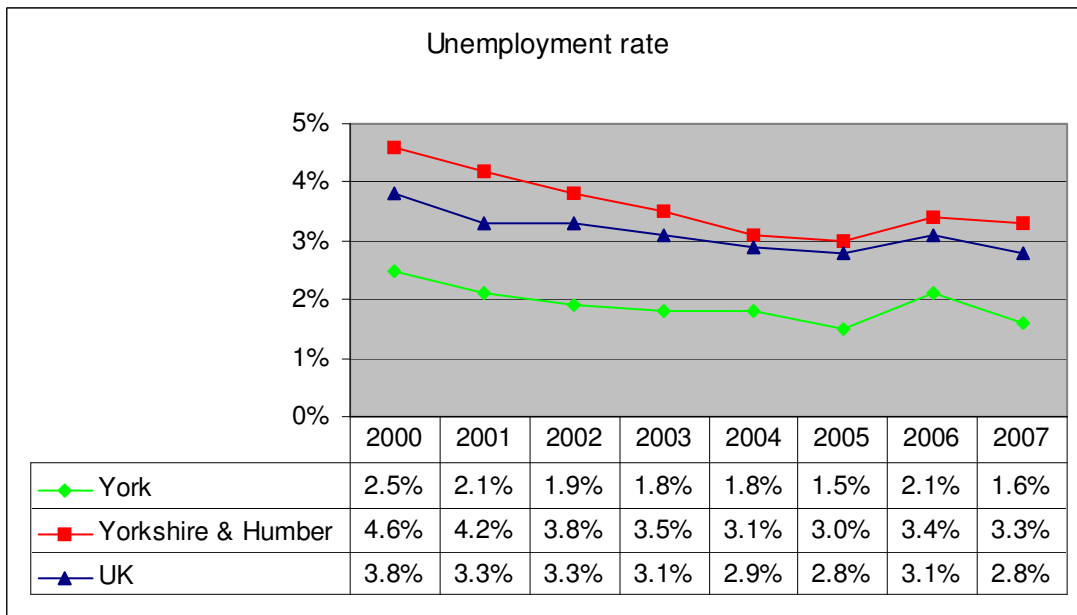
1 There have been 4 meetings of the Executive since the last meeting of the Council.
 2 Four “review reports” have been received.
 3 Perhaps the most important dealt with the Councils policies on **Climate Change**. Approval in
 4 principle was given to an *Environmental Sustainability Strategy* and associated *Action Plan towards*
 5 *a Climate Change Strategy* for the city, and to the adoption of the Environmental Policy as a basis
 6 for the Council’s Environmental Management System (EMS).
 7 Prior to the drafting of this strategy, work relating to environmental sustainability had tended to be
 8 ad hoc and reactive. Staff resources had responded to opportunities as they arose rather than as
 9 part of a measured and managed response. This produced good foundations and the embedding
 10 of environmental sustainability has evolved over time. Additional staff resources are now in place
 11 so that a more strategic approach to this rapidly changing area of work can take place. The
 12 diagram below explains where the Strategy sits within the city aim of a Sustainable Community and
 13 within the councils priorities:



14
 15 It is expected that the Government target for Local Authorities to reduce their CO2 emissions will
 16 be 20% by 2010 in line with the national target. As a council York would want to exceed this target.
 17 The current York Carbon Footprint is 11 tonnes of CO2 per person per year. The targets agreed
 18 are a reduction of York’s Carbon Footprint to 8.8 tonnes (20%) per person by 2010 and 4.4 tonnes
 19 (60%) per person by 2050.
 20 The Executive believes that the Council should be setting a good example to the City, that the
 21 strategy must include specific trackable actions, that there should be input from all Council
 22 departments (including the Neighbourhood Services Directorate) and that there should be clarity
 23 about timescales, achievability, costs and the availability of resourcing streams. A further report
 24 has therefore been requested.

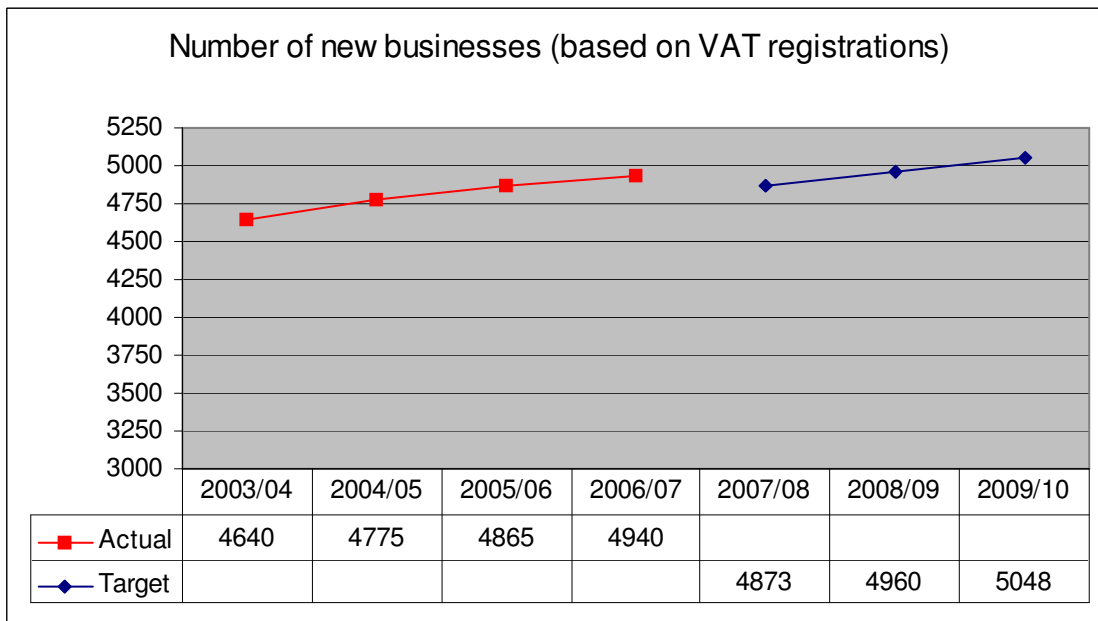
25 The Executive have also received and approved a **Review Report on Jobs**

26 By way of background the performance of the local economy can be summarised graphically as
 27 follows:



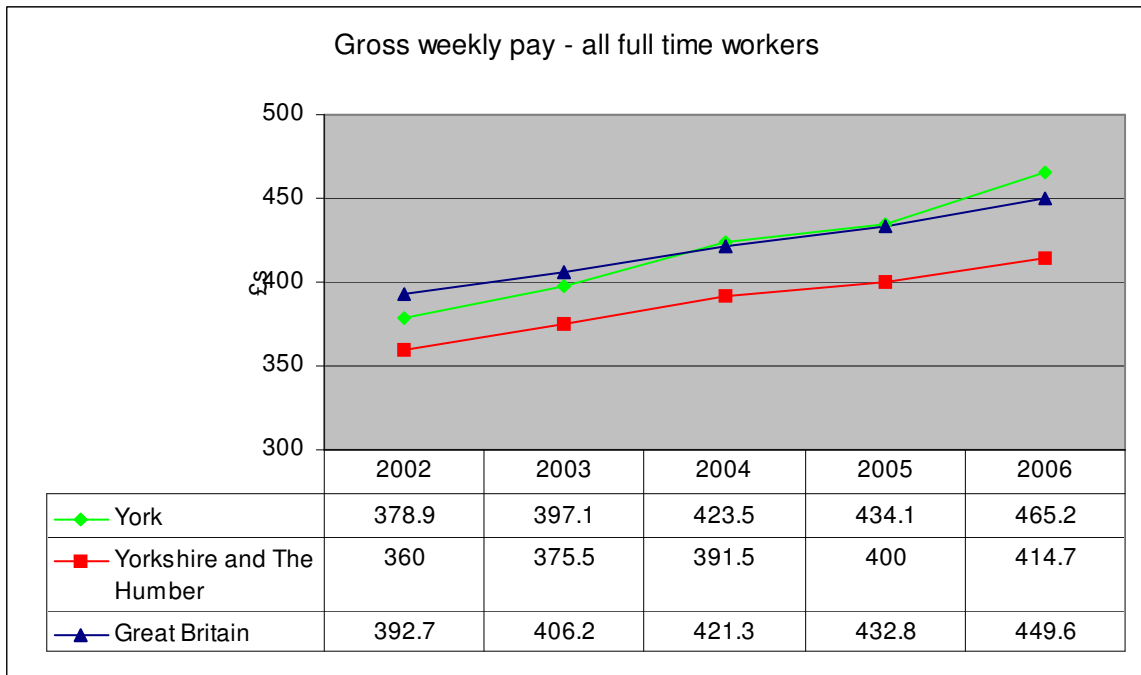
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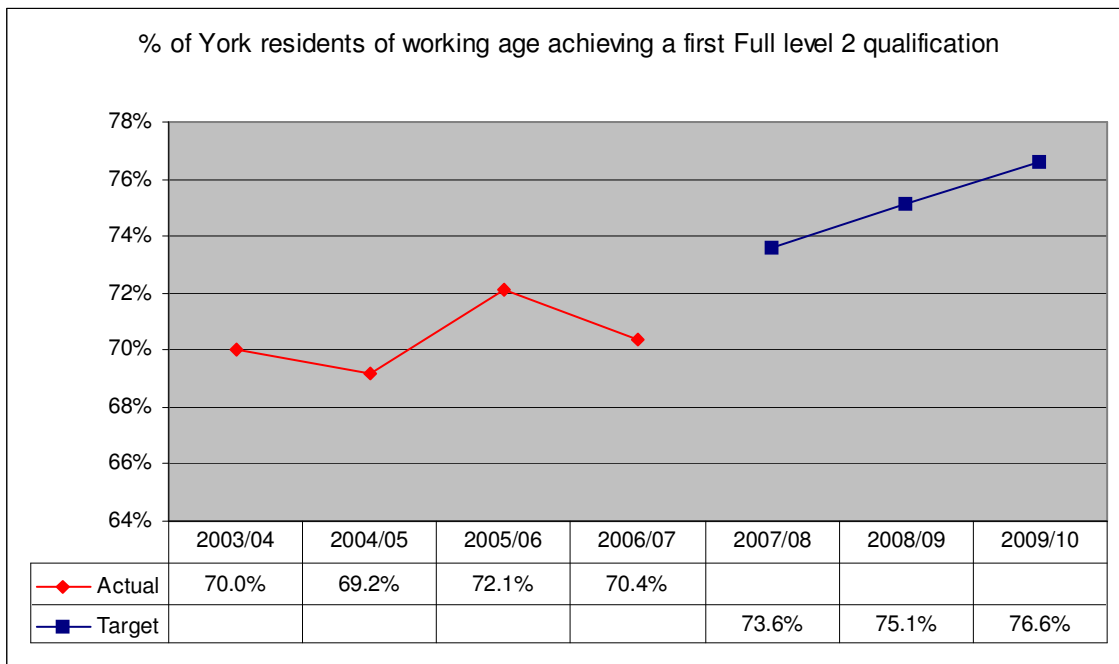
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34

35 In overall terms, the economy of York is performing well as measured against the “headline”
 36 indicators of unemployment rates and median incomes. The Future York Group report indicates
 37 the potential for the economy to grow at an annual rate of 3.7% per annum, providing opportunities
 38 are seized and potential barriers are overcome. The Council is currently consulting on the
 39 recommendations of the Future York Group report prior to making a formal response. There
 40 remains an issue to address in ensuring that York residents are able to play a full part in the
 41 economic growth of the City and that some people are not left “economically excluded”.

42 Key elements where LSP partners and partnerships have been asked to contribute to this include:

- 43 • revisions to Adult and 14-19 strategies through the Learning City Partnership;
- 44 • better employer engagement to improve an understanding of future skill requirements;
- 45 • developing a “worklessness” programme focussed on the most disadvantaged areas of the City;
- 46 • carrying out further research to examine the “destinations” for those displaced from employment
- 47 following job losses.

48 The Executive noted the continuing good performance of the York economy and the very low

49 unemployment rates seen in the City over the last 5 years.

50 The Executive welcomed the interim arrangements recently announced which will give major

51 employers a direct channel to a senior contact within the Council to ensure that any issues relating

52 to jobs are resolved quickly.

53 Officers were requested, as part of their response report to the Future York proposals, to consider

54 how the Strategy Department resource allocation priorities could be refined to ensure prompt

55 attention to major planning applications which are likely to result in significant additional jobs in the

56 City and also to address the issues of job vacancies in the planning department.

57 Using the opportunities offered by the restructure of the Business Link support organisation officers

58 were asked to consult further with small business representative organisations to understand

59 whether more could be done to sustain the economic viability of the sector.

60 The Executive has also considered options for improving **direct communications with residents**.

61 A formal procurement exercise has now commenced which will see a monthly, free issue,

62 information magazine published by the Council next year.

63 The final review report looked at **CCTV systems in the City**.

64 Members considered the current status of the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system in the city,

65 the development work that is ongoing and information about potential future enhancements.

66 The CCTV system inherited by the new administration in 2003 was badly in need of overhaul.

67 There were no effective maintenance contracts in place, reliability was deteriorating and – partly as

68 a result of media stories – public confidence was declining.

69 Additional funding was found, partly from the introduction of evening parking charges, and an

70 effective maintenance contract put in place. £1/3 million is now invested in CCTV community safety

71 activities each year

72 An injection of capital funding was made in 2006 resulting in digital quality pictures and recording

73 being made available.

74 Officers were also asked to explore ways of exploiting emerging technologies to address cost,

75 flexibility, quality and reliability issues.

76 The major announcement in the report related to the extension of the quality and scope of CCTV
77 coverage in the City. Although the technology will need to be tested there is potential now for the
78 extension of coverage to sub-urban areas.

79 The need to fill gaps in the quality of City centre monitoring has also been recognised.

80 Other technology improvements could see benefits for motorists with web access to pictures of
81 traffic conditions being made available.

82 These improvements will require funding at a time when Council finances are under severe
83 pressure. While any partnership funding from businesses and other public service providers would
84 be welcome, it may be that some of the capital expenditure will be required from the LPSA2
85 performance grant.

86 Several other issues have been considered by the Executive

87 The Executive received an update on the **Council's corporate accommodation project**, which
88 includes the targets and achievements for the period October 2006 to June 2007. The main focus
89 of the report was the outcomes from the Hungate feasibility study. The report set out a revised
90 business case for the project which showed that, by investing more capital funding at the
91 construction stage, greater savings could be achieved for the Council in future years than
92 previously anticipated. Currently the Council is spending £2.5 million each year in its buildings. The
93 new Hungate building will cost only about half that - £1.3 million a year. Any revenue savings will
94 be reinvested in improving public service standards for residents.

95 The project represents a significant opportunity to contribute to the climate change agenda. Not
96 only will the building achieve an 'Excellent' BREEAM rating and have 20% of its energy needs met
97 on site from renewable sources, it will better the government's CO2 building requirements by 30%.

98 The report also provided, for the first time, a sense of how the offices could be laid out. The
99 preferred option is for the publicly accessible customer centre and conference suite to be located
100 closest to The Stonebow on just 2 floors, with the main office accommodation located towards
101 Black Horse Lane on 5 floors. This option allows for an open and accessible customer centre that
102 respects its setting amongst listed buildings- particularly the Black Swan pub.

103 Progress has been made on ensuring that the land required for the development is available on
104 time. The Ambulance Service has committed to move from their Hungate site in time to meet the
105 timetable and planning permission has been granted for the replacement of the Peasholme hostel.

106 The Executive considered how to allocate the **Performance Reward Grant** (PRG) earned at the
107 conclusion of York's second Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA2), considered research
108 findings on the **Evening Economy** in York, progressed the **Efficiency and Strategic**
109 **Procurement Programme** and approved the **Finance Strategy 2008/09 to 2010/11** and the
110 Policy Prospectus response on the **Future of a Fair Grant for York** campaign.

111 Other items considered included the **York Northwest Area Action Plan**, developing the **York**
112 **Compact: new codes of good practice**, a reference report: **Public Places and Footstreets**
113 which will lead to the Deangate part of the City being paved.

114 The long-term direction for the Council was set following the approval of the **Corporate Strategy**
115 **2007-2011** and this is placed before Council now for approval.

116 The referred motion on the sale of **Foie Gras** was considered and the Executive advises the
117 Council to consider the following wording option.

118 *That option 2 in the officer report be adopted and that:*

119 *(i) A letter be sent by the Chief Executive to Lord Rooker MP, stating that the City of York Council*
120 *is concerned about the production and importing of foie gras in the UK and requests a review of*
121 *central government policies on animal welfare issues,*

122 *(ii) That the Council will not offer for sale foie gras on its premises.*

123 *(iii) That a link to the "Compassion in World Farming" website be added to the Councils web site,*

124 *(iv) That the contents of this motion be circulated to representative hospitality organisations in the*
125 *City*

126 Steve Galloway