



## Notice of meeting of

### Shadow Executive

**To:** Councillors Merrett (Chair), Evans, Fraser, Horton, Kind, King, Looker, Potter and Simpson-Laing

**Date:** Wednesday, 18 April 2007

**Time:** 3.00 pm

**Venue:** The Guildhall

### AGENDA

#### 1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point, Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

#### 2. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Shadow Executive meeting held on 4 April 2007.

#### 3. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Shadow Executive's remit can do so. The deadline for registering is Tuesday 17 April 2007, at 5.00 pm.

#### 4. **Executive Meeting on 24 April 2007 - Calling-in**

To consider the items on the agenda for the Executive meeting to be held on 24 April 2007, and to take a decision on whether to call-in any of these items.

Please note that the reports relating to these items will be published on the Council's website on 13 April 2007. The website address is [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) Copies of the Executive agenda and

reports are also available for viewing at public libraries in York and can be obtained by telephoning Democracy Support Group on York (01904) 551088.

**5. The Local Government White Paper and its Implications for Neighbourhoods** (Pages 5 - 10)

To receive a briefing report on the neighbourhoods agenda in the light of the White Paper “Strong and Prosperous Communities” and possibilities for improving Ward Committees and devolved decision making.

**6. Neighbourhood Policing**

To receive a briefing from the Director of Neighbourhood Services and a Police Chief Inspector on neighbourhood policing.

**7. The Youth Justice Plan**

To receive a presentation from the Head of the Youth Offending Service on the Youth Justice Plan.

**8. Any Other Matters which the Chair decides are urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.**

Democracy Officer:

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

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

Contact details are set out above.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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MEETING	SHADOW EXECUTIVE
DATE	4 APRIL 2007
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS MERRETT (CHAIR), FRASER, HORTON, KING, LOOKER, POTTER AND SIMPSON-LAING
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS EVANS AND KIND

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**206. 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 Members declared personal non-prejudicial interests in agenda item 5 (Community Use of School Premises) as governors of the following schools:

- Councillor Fraser – Knavesmire Primary;
- Councillor Horton – Copmanthorpe Primary;
- Councillor King – Burton Green Primary;
- Councillor Looker – Park Grove Primary & Canon Lee Secondary;
- Councillor Potter – Tang Hall Primary;
- Councillor Simpson-Laing – Carr Infants.

**207. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Shadow Executive held on 21 March 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**208. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

**209. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN**

The Shadow Executive made the following comments on the Forward Plan at page 9 of the papers circulated for the Executive meeting to be held on 10 April 2007:

*The Shadow Executive:*

- *May require Officer attendance at the relevant Shadow Executive meeting/s in respect of the following items (current Executive dates in brackets):*
  - *Should York be a World Heritage Site? (24/4)*
  - *Also Invite the Lord Mayor to attend for this item.*

**210. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND PFI**

The Shadow Executive considered a report which was listed as item 5 on the agenda for the Executive meeting on 10 April 2007, at page 11. The report presented the final report for part A of the remit of the Highways PFI Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee in regard to Highways Maintenance and the recent Private Finance Initiative (PFI) bid.

Having discussed the issues set out in the report, the following comments were agreed:

*The Shadow Executive:*

- *Note this report and also that the annex does not make it clear that this is only Part A of the full scrutiny review.*

RESOLVED: (i) That the Executive be asked to take the above comments into account when considering this item.

(ii) That the item not be called in.

**211. REFERENCE REPORT: PROGRESS REPORT ON MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES IN YORK SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

The Shadow Executive considered a report which was listed as item 6 on the agenda for the Executive meeting on 10 April 2007, at page 41. The report asked the Executive to consider recommendations of the Executive Member for Children's Services and Advisory Panel in respect of a proposal by Fulford School to enter into a prudential borrowing arrangement with the Local Authority.

Having discussed the issues set out in the report, the following comments were agreed:

*The Shadow Executive:*

- *Applaud government funding for modernisation and replacement of so many York secondary schools and express appreciation of the Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services and his staff and the schools involved in terms of winning the funding for the schemes.*

RESOLVED: (i) That the Executive be asked to take the above comments into account when considering this item.

(ii) That the item not be called in.

**212. COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES**

The Shadow Executive received a briefing report from the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services which provided background information about the community use of school buildings.

The briefing report discussed the provision of educational opportunities outside of the regular school day, adult education, the use of school buildings and Section 106 Agreement funding.

Members discussed the community use of sports and active leisure facilities at schools, including issues relating to capacity and facilitating use, particularly casual use. They also discussed the provision of youth facilities at schools and the possibility of using Section 106 funding for adult education provision,

The Head of Sport & Active Leisure also attended the meeting to contribute to the discussion. She provided an update on the social analysis of physical activity and use of facilities undertaken by Sport England.

The Shadow Executive thanked the Director for preparing the briefing report and officers for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the briefing be noted.

**213. MAXIMISING INVESTMENT INTO THE CITY FOR NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES**

The Shadow Executive received a briefing report from the Head of Housing Services which provided an overview of the options open to the Council to increase the level of investment into new affordable homes within the city.

The briefing report outlined performance to date, detailed the key strategic issues that the corporate priority relating to affordable housing sought to address, and set out the key actions from the associated Delivery and Innovation Plan and how these would be achieved.

Members discussed issues relating to the provision of family homes, asset management planning and the engagement of local residents in this process, and allowing adequate time in the planning process for negotiations with developers.

The Shadow Executive thanked the Head of Housing Services for preparing the briefing report and attending the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the briefing be noted.

D M Merrett, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 4.35 pm].

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## Shadow Executive

18<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

### **The local government white paper and its implications for neighbourhoods**

#### **Summary**

1. This report has been prepared in response to Shadow Executive's request for a briefing on, 'The neighbourhoods agenda in the light of the new White Paper and possibilities for improving ward committees and devolved decision making'.

#### **Background**

##### Overview of the white paper

2. The white paper was published on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006 and was followed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill which had its first reading on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006. The Bill will set in law some of the proposals in the white paper.
3. The government's vision in the white paper is of "revitalised local authorities, working with their partners, to reshape public services around the citizens and communities that use them". Through the white paper, the government wants to give local communities a greater say in how local services are provided, enable partners to work together more effectively and flexibly to respond to local needs, and reduce top-down control from central government.
4. The key proposals in the White Paper include:
  - An enhanced role for Councils as strategic leaders and place shapers – local authorities will have a duty to prepare a Local Area Agreement (LAA) and their leadership role in the Local Strategic Partnership is emphasised
  - Political leadership to be more focussed, with all Executive powers being invested in the Leader who may then delegate these powers to cabinet
  - A new performance framework with a new single Comprehensive Area Assessment replacing existing performance assessments such as Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and Joint Area Reviews (JAR)
  - Stronger cities and city regions which will be encouraged to develop Multi Area Agreements, crossing local authority boundaries to encourage collaboration on, for example key economic development issues

5. The government has used the white paper to set out its vision of the expectations on and opportunities for local government and its partners in the future. In the white paper, the government has outlined some of the tools and powers local authorities will need to achieve this vision of excellence. There is some freedom as to how far local authorities go in aiming for the government's vision but they do not have complete discretion – minimum standards of conduct and behaviour which the government requires are already passing into law through the local government bill.
6. The bill is less ambitious and more pragmatic than the white paper, outlining the minimum response expected by local authorities. However, the expectation is that councils striving for excellence will aim to translate as many of the ideas in the white paper into reality as possible. The government also published an implementation plan for the white paper in January 2007, identifying key work streams for local authorities to focus on and the timetables for their delivery.

### The white paper and neighbourhoods

7. One of the strands of the white paper is a set of proposals to encourage local communities to engage in the process of improving their neighbourhoods. The proposals aim to give more power to local communities to effect change in their areas, for example by raising concerns with their local councillor through the Community Call for Action, or by setting up a group to take on management of a local building. The proposals are highlighted below.
8. Some implications of the white paper for neighbourhoods:
  - A 'Community Call for Action' process will be introduced whereby residents can raise concerns with their councillor. The councillor will then deal with the issue informally by discussions with the Executive and local service providers. Where the issue cannot be resolved in this way however, the councillor can raise it with scrutiny to investigate. Some issues will be exempt from this process, for example, planning, licensing, council tax and non-domestic rates, because these have a statutory appeals process
  - Through the new Comprehensive Area Assessment, there will be a greater emphasis on consultation with communities and publication of performance information
  - There will be an extension of the power of well-being to parish and town councils which satisfy 'Quality Parish' criteria
  - Councils will have an option to move to single member wards
  - There will be devolution of some powers to local authorities, for example the ability to create and enforce byelaws locally
  - Communities will be encouraged to adopt their own neighbourhood charters – these charters might set out service standards, priorities for local action, community responsibilities for management of services or facilities and the involvements local people can expect about issues that affect them



- There will be a more systematic approach to dealing with local petitions (for example, petitions to be available online)
- Communities will be encouraged to become more involved in neighbourhood management – to this end, there will be a simplified process for setting up and empowering Tenant Management Organisations
- Grants will be awarded to local authorities to refurbish buildings which can then be transferred to the community to be owned and/ or managed. The government has initiated a review of Community Ownership and Management which is due to report in Spring 2007.

9. The above proposals can be seen as tools for local authorities to focus more on community development if they wish, to move from a situation of primarily consultation and information giving, to one where communities are fully involved in decisions affecting their localities, working in partnership with the council to share responsibility for delivering locally agreed plans. South Somerset District Council and Cumbria County Council are examples of local authorities which have emphasised community development in their work:

- South Somerset won Beacon Status in 2005/06 in the 'Improving Rural Services: Empowering Communities' category. The authority engaged with communities based on a concept of working they called 'Enable, Empower, Deliver'. The authority has enabled communities to deliver solutions to local needs by:
  - Helping them set up appropriate structures and mechanisms for long term delivery
  - Investing in community development staff from different services to support the concept and remove barriers communities faced in helping themselves
  - Building communities' capacity to be engagedThe council accepted that it had to lose some control of service delivery in order for this method of working with communities to be successful.  
Link: [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=506](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=506)
- Cumbria works to a framework of community engagement which it has developed, called 'Local Matters'. The council believes that more effective collaboration with communities is the best way to deliver improvements that local people want, and by applying the principles of Local Matters the following benefits will be seen:
  - Improved decision making – ensuring that decisions are based on evidence of local needs
  - Improved savings – providing services that local people want, removing what is not needed and varying provision according to local requirements
  - Improved quality – ensuring effective feedback from communities on service delivery
  - Improved investment – distributing resources for communities fairlyLink: [www.cumbria.gov.uk/communityinformation/localmatters/default.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/communityinformation/localmatters/default.asp)

10. As can be seen from the examples above, in order to deliver all that the white paper proposes, council resources, internal leadership and structures may

have to be realigned. In addition, it is not always clear to what extent levels of participation can be raised by the proposals – relationships with communities will need to be developed further to raise their level of trust in the process and their sense of added value from it. Further, if services are devolved to a more local level, this will have implications for how they are planned and coordinated.

11. The points raised above are potentially complex, but work is underway to explore them further as the council's white paper implementation plans are developed this year.

### **Consultation**

12. Officers from Neighbourhood Services have been consulted in preparing this report. The recent paper to the Urgency Committee ( 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007 ) which approved the restructure of neighbourhood Services Directorate excluded the current neighbourhood management unit from consideration. It was expressly stated at para 32 that the impact of the White Paper and the Lyons report might necessitate a restructure of the unit. A service review of the neighbourhood management unit is currently taking place and will be completed in the summer. Recommendations for any structural or service delivery changes will be brought to a future neighbourhoods EMAP for consideration

### **Options and Analysis**

13. As this report is for information only, it does not include any options or analysis for members' consideration.

### **Corporate Priorities**

14. The information within the report relates to the following priorities:
  - Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services
  - Improve leadership at all levels to provide clear consistent direction to the organisation
  - Improve the way the council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York

### **Implications**

15. There are no financial, legal, HR, equalities, crime and disorder or other implications directly arising from this report.

### **Risk Management**

16. As this report is for information only, it does not include any risk management for members' consideration.

## Recommendations

16. Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

### Contact Details

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**For further information please contact the authors of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

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