

Report to Full Council from the Deputy Leader of the Council

Since it's the turn this time for a report on the Transport portfolio, this Deputy Leader's report will focus on other aspects of my role to avoid duplication.

Council Plan:

As an administration we have worked hard to compile and refine the new council plan to set out a clear vision and set of objectives for the four year term. For us, this is intended to provide clear benchmarks against which we measure success in delivering corporate objectives and progress towards our climate change objective of zero carbon by 2030. It will also complement the key messages about our city encapsulated in the narrative project. 'A city making history, building communities'. This has drawn on responses from over 6000 residents and a wide range of stakeholders – it is much more than a 'strapline' for us, being something that acknowledges our heritage, ambitions and community focus. It will demonstrate that social priorities are just as important as protecting our heritage and maintaining economic prosperity.

Deputising for the Leader:

The most significant deputising has been my attendance at some meetings of the two Local Enterprise Partnerships which we belong to, York and North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP, and West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). The government has determined that overlapping membership must be removed by April next year leading to discussions of possible mergers, mirroring the 'One Yorkshire' devolution discussions.

At the WYCA meeting on October 10th it was stated clearly that there is a strong desire to keep Harrogate, Craven, Selby and York as associate members. There was a paper on 'Tackling the Climate Emergency' following declaration in June 2019 of the ambition for the region to become net zero carbon by 2038. This made clear that all new schemes will include assessment of climate impact and a review of all existing schemes during the coming year. Low carbon workshops held during the summer have helped identify appropriate actions.

CityConnect Programme:

The CityConnect Programme will have invested £60m in cycling and walking by 2020 (including £4m on the new Scarborough Bridge in York). £69m investment through the Local Growth Fund is helping to boost cycling and walking and I am keen to see York progress our own Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan so as to be able to draw on any funds which become available, as several West Yorkshire Authorities are doing through WYCA funding.

York BID:

As one of two CYC representatives on York BID Board (Business Improvement District) I am now a Director and have attended Board meetings and the Safe and Secure Subgroup, dealing with plans for the Christmas lights switch on, upgrades to city centre car parking etc. As many of their concerns relate to traffic and movement this will no doubt prove to be useful to both parties.

Several members of the Executive attended a presentation by the man behind the Helmsley Group, John Reeves. This was focussed on the challenge of placemaking in historic shopping centres, with the continued change in consumer demand and rise of internet shopping. It is possible that this could lead to a riverside walkway along the rear of premises on Coney Street that back onto the River Ouse, with further work on freight transshipment so that greater pedestrianisation and removal of HGV deliveries could be achieved.

Brexit:

As a council we have also been responding to concerns about the impact of Brexit, though of course anything written now will be out of date by October 31st!

The new administration has agreed to further organisational review, seeking to ensure that efficiencies are made as effectively as possible; but also to update our constitution, review what works well, and what might be changed, to make us even more transparent and accountable. We are committed to a report that compares the merits of Leader and Executive or Committee system, and any options between, learning from

31 October 2019



councils elsewhere in the country that have changed, or are already considering making such changes.

Budget:

The budget process for next year is now underway, with public consultation planned before Christmas. We are also committed to portfolio based proposals being published and open to scrutiny in January, before the final version goes to Executive and Full Council in February.