

Meeting	Executive
Date	7 May 2020
Present	Councillors Aspden (Chair), Ayre, Craghill, Cuthbertson, D'Agorne, Runciman, Smalley, Waller and Widdowson  Councillor Myers also attended.
Officers In Attendance:	Ian Floyd (Deputy Chief Executive); Janie Berry (Director of Governance); Amanda Hatton (Corporate Director for Children, Education & Communities); Sharon Stolz (Director of Public Health); Debbie Mitchell (Section 151 Officer); and Will Boardman (Head of Corporate Policy & City Partnerships)

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#### **114. Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests, that they might have in the business on the agenda. Councillor Aspden declared a personal interest in Minute No.117 below in relation to proposals for Fulford School, as the local ward Councillor.

#### **115. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 19 March 2020 be approved and then signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### **116. Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. That being the case, the Leader did, however, report that the following written representations had been received:

- (i) Mr R Clark relating to Council monies spent on Covid 19; an update on Covid 19 on aspects of concern to the Council was being considered under Minute No. 119 below;
- (ii) York Central Action Group relating to progress with the York Central Project, for which the Leader confirmed the Executive's continuing commitment.

The Leader thanks those concerned for their written representations, which had been circulated to all Members of the Executive and which were noted.

**117. Fulford School Remodelling Phase 1 & Access Improvements by Highways**

Members considered a report outlining two schemes requesting funding at Fulford School. The first project being needed to address the requirement for more teaching space at the school to accommodate additional pupils for September 2020, due to the increase in pupil numbers from within the school's catchment as of September 2020. Thereby enabling the school to admit the growth in pupil numbers from within its catchment, so that all children in that catchment could access their local secondary school.

The second scheme being to provide a solution for the current and projected transport access issues at the school.

The Executive Member indicated his support for both proposals to provide adequate school places and safe travel.

The Leader thanked partners, schools and all those involved in enabling workable solutions to be brought forward to the issues.

Resolved:

- i. That the allocation of £500k of basic need funding be approved, to enable remodelling of areas of the existing Fulford School building for the purpose of accommodating additional pupils above the school's planned admission number for September 2020.

Reason: To enable the council to meet its statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places in this area.

- ii. That funding of £550k be approved, in principle, to carry out access improvements to the Fulford School site, providing for school buses to access the school from the south through the Germany Beck site and exit the school site via Fulford Gate to the north.

Reason: To make improvements to the access route to the school to reduce congestion and improve road safety in the area.

#### **118. Term Dates for the 2021/22 School Year**

Members considered a report seeking approval to proposed school term dates, for which the City of York Council (CYC) was the employer, for the school year beginning September 2021. It was reported that such approval would usually be sought from the responsible Executive Member but had been submitted to this meeting during the pandemic, given there were currently no Executive Member Decision Sessions taking place.

The Executive Member indicated his support for the proposals, advising that they were in line with those of neighbouring authorities. He took the opportunity, at this point, to thank all those key workers who continued to support York's children and young people.

Resolved:

That the proposed term dates for the 2020/2021 school year be approved

Reason: To meet the statutory requirements of legislation including the Education Act 2002, (Section 32), and other related legislation.

**119. Update on Coronavirus Response**  
**(Note: Councillor D'Agorne was unable to participate in discussion on this item between 5.56pm and 6.02pm due to technical problems)**

Members considered a report summarising activities and changes to working practices and services which had been taking place to deliver essential services to those most in need during the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. Annex 1 to the report set out in detail the financial implications for the Council to date in providing that support to residents and businesses alike.

The Acting Chief Executive reported the following amendment to the report (page 47, paragraph 76 to agenda item 6 refers) since it had been published:

**'A total of £4.7m has been received in central Government support for the costs associated with the coronavirus response. However, initial estimates suggest the cost to the council could be as much as £35m, taking into account cost pressures, additional demand and reduced income. A further allocation of £5.7m has been announced and payment of this second tranche of funding is due in May.'**

A full and comprehensive debate then ensued with each Executive Member contributing their response to the work and reprioritisation which had been taking place and was still ongoing. They thanked all those staff, key workers, partners, service operators, residents and volunteers who were responding every day to emerging new and changing priorities.

It was recognised that there would need to be a review of financial support provided and the Council's position as it moved towards recovery but with an emphasis on retaining the community's ongoing public health as a continuing central focus.

In summary and in noting the work undertaken to date, the Leader requested a report to the next Executive meeting on the Council's plans for recovery, including how it could work with partners to support and help the recovery of the city and its residents.

Resolved:

- i. That the report and contents be noted, including the above amendment to page 47 of agenda item 6, at paragraph 76, and the financial position outlined;
- ii. That a report be considered at the next meeting of the Executive on recovery planning and work ongoing with partners.

Reason: To ensure that the Executive were updated on City of York Council's response to Coronavirus (Covid 19)

## **120. Amendment to Standing Orders**

Members considered a report notifying them of amendments made by the Monitoring Officer to the Council's Constitution following the publication of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (the "Regulations"). These came into force on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020, and provided for alternative arrangements for Local Authority meetings required to be held between 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Members were advised that the changes made enabled the continuity of decision making during this period and enabled the convening of remote meetings for the Council.

The report also detailed the decisions made using the Urgent Decision Making Guidance (provided as a part of those constitutional changes) for the period 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The Leader confirmed that the meeting today was the starting point for series of remote meetings to be scheduled in the coming weeks, including those to deal with planning and licensing applications.

Resolved:

- i. That the amendment to the Council's Standing Orders for the provision of remote meetings and urgent decisions, be noted;

- ii. That the decisions made under the Urgent Decision Making Guidance between 23rd March 2020 and 7th April 2020, be noted.

Reason: To ensure that the Executive were updated on City of York Council's change to the Council's Standing Orders and the urgent decisions that had been made between 23rd March 2020 and 7th April 2020.

Cllr K Aspden, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.40 pm].