

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 9th July, 2009, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr John Galvin) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD	BISHOPTHORPE WARD
Horton Simpson-Laing	Galvin
CLIFTON WARD	DERWENT WARD
Scott	Brooks
DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD	FISHERGATE WARD
Holvey Reid	D'Agorne Taylor
FULFORD WARD	GUILDHALL WARD
Aspden	Looker
HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD	HESLINGTON WARD
Firth Hogg R Watson	
HEWORTH WARD	HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD
Funnell Potter	Ayre
HOLGATE WARD	HULL ROAD WARD
Alexander Bowgett Crisp	Cregan Pierce

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore
Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Douglas, Jamieson-Ball, King, Kirk, Sunderland, B Watson and Watt

13. 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 a personal, non prejudicial interest in the motion on the East Coast Main Line at agenda item 13 (Minute 20 refers):

- Cllr Scott – as a member of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers
- Cllr Horton – as a member of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TU)
- Cllr Merrett – as an active member of the TU

The following Members declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in the Executive recommendation on the Equal Pay Update at agenda item 7 (Minute 19 refers):

- Cllr Fraser – as a member of the retired section of UNISON and the Acts section of the TGWU section of Unite
- Cllr Crisp – as a member of the retired section of UNISON
- Cllr Simpson-Laing – as a previous member of UNISON
- Cllr Pierce - as a previous member of UNISON

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 2 April 2009 and the Annual Council meeting held on 21 May 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

15. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor announced the receipt of a statue, a gift from a group of Chinese visitors, which was on display in the Council Chamber.

On behalf of all Members the Lord Mayor then expressed his thanks to Bill McCarthy, the Chief Executive, who would be leaving the City of York Council at the end of the month, and wished him well in his new post.

16. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during any discussion on the exempt minute relating to the Executive's recommendation on the Equal Pay Update at agenda item 7 (Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations), on the grounds that it contains information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. Such information is classed as exempt under paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor announced that three people had registered to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. Each was invited to speak for three minutes, in accordance with the rules of the Scheme.

Paul Moran, a resident of Westminster Road spoke in support of a petition to be presented by Cllr Scott regarding traffic issues on Westminster Road and The Avenue. He highlighted the impact on residents of the 'rat running' that had resulted from changes to the layout at Water End and expressed the view that the problem could only be addressed by closing the roads to traffic.

Verna Campbell, who had registered to speak in relation to an amendment to be moved by Cllr Aspden to the motion on the East Coast Main Line, confirmed that she no longer wished to address the meeting as this amendment was to be withdrawn.

Mark Warters had registered to speak in relation to Cold Calling Zones in the City. He praised the Council for extending these zones, most recently to the Fulford area, and suggested that the idea be further extended to cover other activities, such as leafleting. He went on to comment on a recent European Court ruling regarding the Osbaldwick development.

18. PETITIONS

Under Standing Order 7, petitions were presented by:

- (i) Cllr Looker, on behalf of residents seeking a ban on the consumption of alcohol in Clarence Gardens.¹
- (ii) Cllr Potter, on behalf of residents calling for a 20 mph speed limit on Newlands Drive.²
- (iii) Cllr Gunnell, on behalf of residents of Nunmill Street calling for a 20 mph speed limit on their street.³
- (iv) Cllr Gunnell, on behalf of residents of Scarcroft Hill calling for a 20 mph speed limit on their street.⁴
- (v) Cllr Fraser, on behalf of residents of Micklegate Ward calling for a 20 mph speed limit on residential streets in the City.⁵
- (vi) Cllr Simpson-Laing, on behalf of residents calling for a 20 mph speed limit on Lidgett Grove and Newlands Drive.⁶
- (vii) Cllr Scott, on behalf of local residents, regarding traffic issues on Westminster Road and The Avenue.⁷

- (viii) Cllr Scott, on behalf of local residents, regarding street lighting on Grosvenor Road.⁸
- (ix) Cllr Bowgett, on behalf of residents of Holgate asking for the no. 5 bus to take on the route of the former no. 18, via Stonebow.⁹

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep Cllr Looker updated | KS |
| 2. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep Cllr Potter updated | SS |
| 3. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep Cllr Gunnell updated | SS |
| 4. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep Cllr Potter updated | SS |
| 5. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep Cllr Fraser updated | SS |
| 6. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep Cllr Simpson-Laing updated | SS |
| 7. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep Cllr Scott updated | SS |
| 8. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep Cllr Scott updated | KS |
| 9. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep Cllr Bowgett updated | SS |

19. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

A written report was received from the Executive Leader, Cllr Andrew Waller, on the work of the Executive.

In presenting his report, the Leader endorsed the comments of the Lord Mayor on the imminent departure of the Chief Executive and recorded his thanks to Adam Wilkinson, the Interim Director of Neighbourhood Services, who would also be leaving shortly to take up the post of Chief Executive of Derby City Council.

After leaders of the Opposition groups had responded to his report, the Executive Leader moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the following recommendation contained in Minute 26 of the Executive meeting held on 23 June 2009 (Community Stadium – Outline Business Case):

“That Council endorse the approach set out in the report and allocate £100k from general reserves in 2009/10 to provide funds for the delivery of this work, which will include specialist external advice to ensure delivery within the next 12 months.”

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendation contained in Minute 26 of the Executive meeting held on 23 June 2009 be agreed. ¹

The Leader then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the following recommendation contained in Minute 37 of the Executive meeting held on 7 July 2009 (Customer Strategy):

“That the Customer Strategy and Delivery Plan be approved.”

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendation contained in Minute 37 of the Executive meeting held on 7 July 2009 be agreed. ²

At this stage in the meeting, the press and public were excluded, in accordance with the resolution made under agenda item 4, to enable Council to debate the recommendation contained in the exempt minute on the Equal Pay Update.

The Leader then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the recommendation contained in Minute 27 of the Executive meeting held on 23 June 2009 (Equal Pay Update).

Cllr Scott then moved, and Cllr Potter seconded, that the matter be referred back to the Executive with a request that they provide a report to Council explaining the basis for the recommendation.

On being put to the vote, Cllr Scott’s proposal was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the recommendation contained in Minute 27 of the Executive meeting held on 23 June 2009 be referred back to the Executive with a request that they provide a report to Council explaining the basis of the recommendation. ³

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. (Community Stadium) Make the agreed adjustment to the budget and commission external advice | SS |
| 2. Start to implement the Customer Strategy | SA |
| 3. Refer the Equal Pay Update back to Executive | GR |

20. URGENT MOTION - EAST COAST MAIN LINE

At this point in the meeting, the Lord Mayor varied the order of business to enable Members to debate as an urgent motion the motion relating to the East Coast Main Line of which notice had been given by Cllr Gillies.

Cllr Gillies then moved, and Cllr Scott seconded, that

“Council notes the announcement by Lord Adonis, the transport secretary, on 1st July, concerning the future of the East Coast Main Line rail franchise.

Council expresses grave concerns about the stability of jobs and must ensure it does all within its powers to protect the jobs of those currently working for National Express East Coast in the City long term, and also to represent the interests of fare paying passengers travelling to and from York.

Council therefore requests:

- That the Chief Executive requests a meeting urgently with the main party leaders, National Express, the City’s MPs, trades union leaders and the Minister of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, to secure the long term future of the East Coast Main Line jobs in York and vital rail connections to and from the City.”¹

Cllr Aspden then indicated that he wished to withdraw an amendment to the above motion of which he had previously given notice. Council having consented to the withdrawal, the above motion was put to the vote and was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

Action Required

1. (East Coast Main Line) Request urgent meeting, as agreed DB

21. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(i) Annual Report

Mrs Christine Bainton, the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee, presented the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

Mrs Bainton then moved receipt of the Annual Report and Cllr Horton seconded the motion and it was

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2008/09 be received.

(ii) Protocol on Officer / Member Relations

Mrs Bainton then moved, and Cllr Horton seconded, the recommendation contained in Minute 10 of the Standards Committee meeting held on 26 June 2009 in respect of a revised Protocol on Officer / Member Relations.

Following a debate on this recommendation, Cllr Pierce moved, and Cllr Scott seconded, that the matter be referred back to the Standards Committee for further consideration, with particular reference to the wording at paragraph 3.2 of the revised Protocol.

On being put to the vote, Cllr Pierce's proposal was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the Protocol on Officer / Member Relations be referred back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.¹

Action Required

Refer the Protocol on Officer / Member Relations back to Standards Committee GR

22. SCRUTINY - REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A written report was received from Cllr Paul Healey, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council, on 2 April 2009.

23. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

A written report was received from Cllr Moore, the Executive Member for Corporate Services.

Notice had been received of four questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The questions were put and answered as follows:

(i) From Cllr R Watson:

"In his report the Executive Member describes the Place Survey as 'extremely encouraging', please could he explain why he believes this to be the case?"

The Executive Member replied:

"The Place Survey takes place every two years, as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. There are eighteen 'resident perception based' National Performance Indicators (NPI) which are designed to gather comprehensive feedback from local citizens on what it's like to live and work in York. This is a survey of residents undertaken independently of the Council.

A preliminary comparative assessment has been carried out through the PriceWaterhouseCoopers benchmarking site and York has done extremely well with:

- 13 of the 18 are performing above average (including all 4 of the LAA Place Survey targets)*
- 10 of the 18 Place Survey NPIs in the top quartile (including 2 LAA targets)*
- no target in the bottom quartile*

As previously stated I believe these are extremely encouraging results.”

(ii) From Cllr Sunderland:

“Could the Executive Member please inform Council of the percentage of invoices paid by the council within 30 days?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The percentage of invoices paid within 30 days was 97.4% for 2008/09. This area of performance is particularly important in the current economic climate, as local businesses rely on prompt payments from the council to maintain a healthy cash-flow. When comparing the council's performance with other authorities, this places York in the top quartile and represents good improvement from four years ago when it was processing 92% within 30 days.”

(iii) From Cllr Orrell:

“Could the Executive Member explain the impact the recession has had on the collection rate for business rates?”

The Executive Member replied:

“In the three years from 2005/06 to 2007/08 the in-year collection rates rose from 97% to 98.3%. However, in 2008/09 the collection rate dropped by 0.8% to 97.5%. This drop is attributed to the effect of the economic downturn, as more businesses experienced difficulties.

National figures provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government show that for all English authorities the collection rate dropped last year by 0.98%, with a 1.15% fall for unitary councils. This shows that the city is, at present, performing well in response to the recession, relative to other areas. However, there will be no complacency, and collection rates will continue to be monitored.”

(iv) From Cllr Vassie:

“Following the success of the rollout of 450 'thin client' PCs as detailed in his report, could the Executive Member detail the future plans for the use of 'thin clients' in the Council?”

The Executive Member replied:

“There is already an approved project in progress to roll out at least a further 200 thin client devices during 2009/10. We are also proposing to accelerate the deployment of these energy saving devices where appropriate within the Council as part of the ICT work stream within the More 4 York Efficiency Programme.”

24. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Minutes of the following outside bodies had been made available for Members to view on the Council's website:

- North Yorkshire Police Authority – Meeting held on 17/04/09
- Quality Bus Partnership – Meeting held on 12/03/09
- Regional Transport Forum - Meeting held on 20/03/09
- Safer York Partnership – Meeting held on 07/04/09
- Without Walls Partnership – Meeting held on 12/05/09
- York NHS Foundation Trust – Meeting held on 11/03/09
- Economic Development Partnership Board – Meeting held on 09/03/09

No questions had been submitted to representatives on the above bodies.

25. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

Members proposed the following additions to the list of appointments and changes circulated around the Council:

Corporate Appeals Panel

To appoint the following as additional substitutes:

Labour: Cllr Looker

Conservative: Cllr Wiseman

Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To appoint Cllr Horton as Vice Chair

RESOLVED: That the appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and Working Groups set out in the list circulated around the Council Chamber, and the above additions proposed by Members at the meeting, be approved (in accordance with the list attached as Annex A to these minutes).

26. NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Housing Revenue Subsidy System

It was moved by Cllr Morley and seconded by Cllr Hyman that:

“Council notes that in the period 2005/06 to 2008/09 over £20m in council house rent income has been lost locally through negative subsidy under the Housing Revenue Subsidy System.

Council notes with regret that, had this money been retained in York as called for by this Council in 2007, it could have been used to invest in new affordable housing to help residents in need of affordable housing and to help protect jobs in the house building sector.

Therefore, Council resolves to support the LGA campaign calling for:

- The replacement of the current housing finance system with a new system that allows councils to retain 100% of locally-raised revenue and provides flexibility for investment in locally-determined priorities.
- Support for council-led housing development to ensure that home-building continues during the recession.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to local MPs expressing the views of Council and urging them to sign EDM 1683 supporting the LGA’s campaign.”¹

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(ii) University Swimming Pool

It was moved by Cllr Crisp and seconded by Cllr Scott that:

“This Council asks the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Heritage to bring forward a report that:

- Sets out a clear programme of the meeting dates for the University Swimming Pool Steering Group for the remainder of the municipal year;
- Outlines a clear and final completion date for the University Pool;
- Identifies a mechanism for the closing of the reported funding gap for the University Pool and
- Outlines the Council’s strategy to provide a pool in a City Centre location if completion at the University by 2011 is not feasible and that that strategy has a clear and timely completion date,

and that this report will be brought to the next Council meeting in October 2009.”²

Cllr Ayre then moved, and Cllr Sue Galloway seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“Delete all after ‘This Council’ and replace with:

‘notes the commitment of the Liberal Democrat administration to investing in quality leisure facilities for the city. Evidenced by the ambitious £15m leisure and culture capital programme introduced since 2003 which includes:

- The £1.2m refurbishment of Yearsley Pool – a pool Labour earmarked for closure.*
- The development of a new £6.7m pool at York High, which will open later this year.*

Council reaffirms its commitment to a county standard pool in the city and instructs the Executive Member to work with senior council officers, representatives from the university and other partners to progress plans for such a pool.”

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 notice of motion be approved.

<p>At this point in the meeting the guillotine fell and the remaining business was put to the vote without debate.</p>

(iii) Community Safety and Alley-gating

It was moved by Cllr Fraser and seconded by Cllr Scott that:

“Council condemns the lack of commitment shown by the current administration to improving community safety and tackling crime, such as domestic burglary.

Despite their Lib Dem 2003 Election manifesto pledge to ‘promote crime prevention measures, especially in the estates’, and their public support for alley-gating at the time, Council notes that this Lib Dem Executive has:

- Failed to allocate resources to implement a strategic approach to implementing alley-gating in vulnerable areas of the City;
- Adopted a dismissive approach to ensuring adequate staffing to support a planned programme of alley-gating in areas of the City particularly susceptible to acquisitive crime;
- Failed to take steps to ensure the maintenance of alley-gates where, through the efforts of local ward members and funding from ward committees and Safer York Partnership budgets (supported by funds allocated from the Home Office), gates have been installed.

Council calls on the Executive to draw up a strategy to ensure a detailed programme of properly funded alley-gating schemes across the City and which ensures that, once gates are installed, they are properly maintained.”³

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(iv) Leeman Road Sorting Office

It was moved by Cllr Holvey and seconded by Cllr Aspden that:

“Council regrets the decision by Royal Mail to move some of their distribution service from the Leeman Road Sorting Office to Leeds and notes with concern the impact this will have on jobs in the City as well as the environmental damage caused the extra transportation required.

Council emphasises the importance of maintaining a sorting office in York and the retention of a YO postmark, for the protection of jobs in the City, York’s identity in the international tourism community and to save on unnecessary transportation of mail.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to Royal Mail to express their concerns and to stress the importance of maintaining a sorting office in the City.”⁴

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. (Housing Revenue Subsidy System) Write to local MPs in support of LGA's campaign | DB |
| 2. (University Swimming Pool) Prepare report for October Council meeting | CB |
| 3. (Community Safety and Alley-gating) Schedule report on Executive Forward Plan | SS |
| 4. (Leeman Road Sorting Office) Write to Royal Mail | DB |

27. QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 10(C)

Six questions had been submitted to the Executive Leader and Executive Members under Standing Order 11.3. The guillotine having fallen, Members agreed to receive written responses to these questions. The questions and the written responses are set out below:

- (i) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Alexander:
“Can the Executive Member for City Strategy please tell me why Council Officers have said that an authorised new bus stop on Hamilton Drive cost £2,000 but an authorised replacement bus stop on Hamilton Drive East only cost £85?”

Reply

“To provide a full engineering brief for a new bus stop includes:

- Consultation with local residents at a site never to have had a bus stop before*
- Full accessibility measures (Kassel kerbs and a 'bus stop' box cage on the road)*
- High quality flag, pole and timetable*
- Installation*
= £2000

To re-plant a fallen pole (no new infrastructure required) and seal with concrete

= £85”

- (ii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Firth:
“Would the Executive Member comment on the latest bus usage and bus reliability performance in the City?”

Reply

“Patronage

As reported in NPI 177/ BVPI 102 (Local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area on all bus service - including commercial operations) ridership is as follows:

2007/8: 14,853,143

2008/9: 15,334,448

Patronage on bus services across the City has consistently been at approximately 15 million since 2004.

***Park and Ride** services have seen year on year increases for several years. Total, annual, patronage has increased by 2% over the past year. However, May 2009 figures show a 5.8% drop when compared to May 2008. Of particular note is an 11.8% drop at Rawcliffe Bar which would suggest a reduction in the number of visitors from the north east.*

***Subsidised services** are difficult to quantify exactly due to the changeable nature of the commercial/subsidised network. However, a couple of fairly consistent route surveys demonstrate the following modest ridership increases:*

Service 20 (Acomb - Clifton Moor - Haxby - Monks Cross)

April 2007 6754

April 2008 7641
April 2009 8885
Service 11 evening/Sunday (Bishopthorpe - York)
April 2007 1919
April 2008 1661
April 2009 2402
Service 24 (Fulford - York -Acomb)
April 2007 4080
April 2008 4730
April 2009 5320

Commercial services - The one operator not running any subsidised services in York, Yorkshire Coastliner (now part of Transdev), returned patronage of 600,907 for 2007/8, increasing to 652,282 for 2008/9.

Reliability

LTP 5 figures indicate the following for the past two years:

Percentage of services starting their route on time:

2007/08 68.3%

2008/09 70.9%

Percentage of services on time at intermediate timing points:

2007/08 22.9%

2008/9 52%

The figures were collected via on-street surveys over a one month period where 'on time' refers to the national standard of between 1 minute earlier and 5 minutes later than the scheduled arrival time.

As per the 'public transport review' of last Winter, the Council will be in a position to monitor services using real time passenger information data for the 2009/10 indicators. This will mean that both the sample and accuracy of data collected will be improved. The data will be supported by a small sample of on-street surveys to ensure that it is correct.

A snapshot of reliability for the week ended Saturday 20th June 2009 produced the following results:

94.2% of journeys started on time - that is within the tolerance permitted by the Traffic Commissioner

89.4% were on time (from in excess of 20,000 observations at all stops on the network)

90.5% was the level of compliance for the network as a whole."

(iii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Fraser:

"Can the Executive Member for City Strategy explain the inordinate delay in ensuring that the CCTV camera installed on Bishopthorpe Road becomes operative?"

Reply

"I understand that the timescale for CCTV installation, testing and operation, will in many cases take several months (sometimes 3-4, others have taken longer). Council officers are reliant upon electric & line connections being supplied by a contractor and BT. We have no control over BT's timeframes.

In addition, understand that with this camera we utilised remaining funds from 08/09, to purchase the hardware and commence

installation. The later elements (as above) have been funded from 09/10 financial year, so that has added a little to the timeframe. I understand that BT have said they will be starting their initial work next week and the transmission team will then follow. We do not as yet have a completion date for the work."

- (iv) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Aspden:
"Can the Executive Member give an update on progress made towards using the Sustainable Communities Act to benefit York?"

Reply

Reply

"The Neighbourhood Management Unit have done an excellent job in raising awareness of this new Act. Following information in the April/May editions of Your Ward, all Ward Committees either had a display at the surgery or an agenda item on the Act, consultation letters were sent to 150 voluntary organisations and all Parish Councils and a dedicated web page with an on line consultation facility was provided on the Council website.

As a result of this consultation 327 suggestions were received from residents. Some were duplicates and for many the Council already has the necessary powers. After sifting by Officers from all departments of the Council a short list of suggestions was presented to a Citizens Panel. The Panel included young people and representatives of organisations who had suggested proposals. The feedback from those who attended was very positive with 99% happy with the process. Officers also attended the Without Walls Executive Board to seek their views and the website refreshed to allow residents to comment in the shortlisted suggestions.

All the comments will be assessed to form the final proposals which will come back to the Executive on 21st July.

Feedback for the Local Works Organisation who have been promoting the Sustainable Communities Act shows that a number of Local Authorities are struggling to find proposals to send to the next stage and it would appear that our consultation process has been more comprehensive than many."

- (v) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Alexander:

"Can the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion describe his objectives for the coming year and how he plans to overcome problems within the portfolio area that his predecessor could not?"

Reply

"In last year's CPA the leisure portfolio increased its rating from 2 stars to 3 stars. It is my ambition to have the same problem next year."

(vi) To the Executive Member for Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Horton

"Will the new Executive Member for HASS explain to myself, my fellow Ward Councillor and the residents of Almsford Road, the cost to the Council in Officer time and other costs, in relation to the failed attempt to bring 17 Almsford Road into affordable housing usage?"

Reply

"As I understand it, it was never the intention of officers, or indeed, as far as I am aware, yourself, your fellow Ward Councillor or the residents of Almsford Road to bring 17 Almsford Road into affordable housing usage, it was to bring it to an acceptable standard for occupation - and to that extent the attempt has been successful, not a failure."

J Galvin

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 9.56 pm]