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Meeting	Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee
Date	6 July 2020
Present	Councillors Crawshaw (Chair), Fenton (Vice-Chair), S Barnes, Hunter, Hollyer, Rowley, D Taylor, Pearson and Douglas (substitute for Cllr Musson)
Officers in Attendance	Ian Floyd (Interim Head of Paid Service), Sharon Stoltz (Director of Public Health), Neil Ferris (Corporate Director of Economy & Place), Trudy Forster (Head of HR) Janie Berry (Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer), Dawn Steel (Head of Civic and Democratic Services), Debbie Mitchell (Head of Corporate Finance & Commercial Procurement (interim s151 officer)), Simon Brereton (Head of Economic Growth), Tracey Carter (Assistant Director of Regeneration and Asset Management) and Andy Kerr (Head of Regeneration Programmes)
Apologies	Councillor Musson

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## 5. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the register of Interests, any prejudicial interest or any discloseable pecuniary interests which they may have in respect of business on the agenda. None were declared.

## 6. **Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been four registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme but that only three were available to speak at the meeting.

All three speakers spoke on agenda item 3, City of York Council Recovery and Renewal Strategy.

Mr Bradnam, Chair of the Hospitality Association York, was encouraged by the Council's current recovery plan but would welcome a clearer specific approach for the sector roundtable meetings organised by Make it York, including more specific information in the strategy document, to ensure the meetings measured specific aims, output and success.

Mr *Pinder*, Chair of York Retail Forum, confirmed 60% of shops reopened on 15th July and he raised concerns with the lack of signage within the city centre. He welcomed the parking offers put forward by the Council but questioned why the closest car parks to the city centre were excluded. He confirmed there had been a lack of contact from Make it York and that a detailed marketing strategy would be welcomed from them.

Councillor Webb requested Members maintain a focus on the further opening of schools in September and in particular the wrap around service that supported children and young people in York. He praised the short term support that organisations had provided to families but welcomed a long term provision. He also addressed the support required to ensure city centre businesses opened responsibly and he applauded the work of the public health team. *Cllr Webb also raised concerns regarding Member involvement in the decision-making process and the participation of Members going forward.*

## **7. City of York Council Recovery and Renewal Strategy**

Members considered a report that presented the Council's Recovery and Renewal Strategy, outlining the proposed approach to support York's recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic over the coming year.

The Chair confirmed that at its meeting on 25 June 2020, the Executive considered and broadly approved a strategic recovery approach and the Committee noted that at this evenings meeting, officers would be providing an introductory overview and would highlight the key elements of York's recovery in line with the agreed Strategy.

The Interim Head of Paid Services updated Members on the Recovery and Renewal Strategy, including the underpinning plans and strategies that were annexed to the report. It was noted that alongside the Strategy, a 10 year City Plan was being

discussed with partner organisations and would be reported to Executive in future reports.

The Director of Health informed Members that the new Covid Outbreak Management Plan would provide a central framework for the Council and its partners to ensure a city wide response to managing and minimising any further waves of coronavirus across the city. She highlighted the core part of the plan, including the seven themes and she stated that the City of York Outbreak Management Advisory Board would monitor and challenge the Outbreak Management Plan to ensure good communication and engagement across the city.

The Head of HR provided Members with an overview and it was noted that staff had adapted and changed their way of working to ensure the Council could continue to support residents through the pandemic. She confirmed officers were still focusing on the ongoing health, safety and wellbeing of staff and that a dedicated staff helpline had been created. Members noted that the Organisational Development Plan had also been adapted to support staff in delivering the services across the city through new or amended operating models. She confirmed that West Offices was undergoing risks assessments and that an induction program was being devised for staff.

Officers answered Members questions relating to the 10 year recovery plan and Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 data and it was noted that a supplementary response to some questions would be annexed to the minutes.

The Director of Public Health, Head of HR and Interim Head of Paid Service left the meeting at 18:27.

The Head of Economic Growth, the Assistant Director of Regeneration and Asset Management, the Head of Regeneration Programmes and the Corporate Director of Economy and Place briefed Members on the One Year Transport and Place Strategy Plan. Members noted the frameworks and strategies being developed to support the city's economic recovery.

Officers then answered Members questions relating to employment and skills, the 12 sector roundtables, the retail sector and partnership working. Members noted that updates would continue to be reported to Executive and officers agreed

to provide Members with further details on the 12 sector roundtables.<sup>1</sup>

The Chair thanked officers for their update and an adjournment took place at 19:20 until 19:27.

The Head of Corporate Finance & Commercial Procurement (interim s151 officer) presented Members with an update on the Council's immediate financial response to the pandemic, the ongoing issues and the financial implications and strategies moving forward. Members noted that the Council's finances, the pressures anticipated and the plans put in place to aid recover would be regularly monitored and reported to Executive and that the draft statement of accounts for 2019/20 and the key corporate risks would be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee.

In answer to Members questions regarding the Council's financial challenges, the procurement strategy and the financial support and grant schemes offered to businesses, officers agreed to provide Members with further information on the Bounce Back Loan Scheme and confirmed that the procurement strategy would be refreshed as part of the recovery phase.<sup>2</sup>

The Chair thanked the Head of Corporate Finance & Commercial Procurement (interim s151 officer) for her update and she left the meeting at 19:46.

The Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer provided a presentation on governance and she highlighted the amendments made to the Constitution (council procedural rules). Members noted that all temporary arrangements remained in place and were under constant review. It was also noted that decision-making had largely returned to business as usual, with a comprehensive range of Member meetings taking place remotely.

The Director answered Members concerns regarding the transparency of the emergency decision making process and in answer to Members questions, it was confirmed that it was likely that a remote Full Council meeting would take place later in the year.

The Chair thanked all officers for their updates and in summary and in noting the work undertaken to date, he highlighted some

key areas for the Committee to consider, including residential care homes, a referral rise in children's services, the wider reopening of schools, ongoing budget monitoring, economic recovery, as well as, the Organisational Development Plan and Member involvement in decision making.

Resolved:

- (i) That the information received, at Annex 1 and from the presentations made at the meeting, be noted.
- (ii) That the various key areas identified by the Chair for future consideration, be noted and addressed as appropriate at future meetings.

Reason: To ensure that proper and effective scrutiny was in place in relation to the Council's response to Covid 19.

Action Required

Provide Members with further details on the 12 sector roundtables.	TC TC
Provide Members with further details on the Bounce Back Loan Scheme	

Councillor J Crawshaw, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 8.09 pm].

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Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee

Monday 6 July

5:30pm

**Q. How will the Council commit to ensuring businesses, residents, partners and communities can engage into the 10 year recovery plan?**

The proposal to develop a 10-year plan for York is being discussed with partner organisations through the City Leaders Group, established in response to the need to coordinate Covid responses at a city level. Whilst it is at the initial stages, the intention is that this group will shape up the themes and scope of the plan, which is then developed through consultation as part of the Our Big Conversation. This would be promoted across a wide range of stakeholders, including businesses, residents, partners and communities. We would also envisage the draft plan going to CSMC prior to Executive.

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