

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL
SUMMONS**

All Councillors, relevant Council Officers and other interested parties and residents are formally invited to attend a meeting of the **City of York Council** at **The Guildhall, York**, to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Thursday, 20 October 2022 at 6.30 pm

A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 26)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 14 July 2022 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 6 October 2022.

3. Civic Announcements

To consider any announcements made by the Lord Mayor in respect of Civic business.

4. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, any member of the public who has registered to address the Council, or to ask a Member of the Council a question, on a matter directly relevant to the business of the Council or the City, may do so. **The deadline for registering is 5:00pm on Tuesday, 18 October 2022.**

To register to speak please visit

www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at

www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our updates at www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy for more information on meetings and decisions.

5. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order No.15. Notice has been received of three petitions, to be presented by:-

- (i) Cllr Hook, on behalf of residents of Skelton calling for the installation of a pedestrian crossing to allow safe crossing to all between Fairfield Croft and Fairfield Drive.
- (ii) Cllr Fisher, on behalf of residents of Moor Lane and Princess Road in Strensall, seeking to have these roads fully resurfaced.
- (iii) Cllr Melly, on behalf of residents and visitors supporting Reverse the Ban in calling for a reversal of the ban on Blue Badge Holders from entering the city centre.

6. Report of Executive Leader and Questions (Pages 27 - 36)

To receive and consider a written report from the Leader and ask questions on the work of the Executive.

7. Report of Deputy Leader and Questions (Pages 37 - 42)

To receive and consider a written report from the Deputy Leader and, to question the Deputy Leader thereon.

8. Motions on Notice

To consider the following Motions on Notice under Standing Order 22:

Motions submitted for consideration directly by Council, in accordance with Standing Order 22.1

- (i) From Cllr Fenton

Protecting and improving local bus services

“Council notes that:

- Bus operating companies have been affected by falling passenger numbers, rising costs and driver shortages since the Covid pandemic.
- Financial aid from Government has been important in

supporting the provision of bus services since the start of the pandemic, but this is due to come to an end in March 2023

- Intensive work is currently taking place by Council officers and providers to encourage and support residents to return to buses and retain as many services as possible.
- City of York Council has entered into an 'Enhanced Partnership' with bus operators, which is a prerequisite for unlocking the £17.3m Government funding secured from York's successful Bus Service Improvement Plan bid.
- City of York Council was successful in securing £8.4m from the Government's Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) fund, which will support the purchase of 44 more electric buses.
- Encouraging more residents and visitors to choose to travel by bus rather than car is an important part of the city's efforts to tackle transport-related carbon emissions and reduce congestion.
- Some communities and individuals are poorly served by current bus services, which limit their ability to access employment, education, essential services and social interaction.

Council believes that:

- A reliable, accessible and affordable bus service is essential to all York residents to access shops, services, leisure, employment and education, and to help tackle air pollution, congestion and the Climate Emergency.
- Continued engagement with bus operators through the 'Enhanced Partnership' will be vital in making best use of available financial resources and ensuring that bus routes and timetables are configured in a way that best serves the needs of residents.
- The absence of certainty around Government funding support beyond March 2023 creates the risk of a 'cliff edge' situation where some bus services may be reduced or cut entirely, leading to a material impact on residents' lives.

Council therefore resolves that:

- Officers should continue negotiations with bus providers to retain as many routes as possible and to prevent a gap in

service provision.

- Officers should actively engage with members and user groups as part of their work with operators to review bus routes and timetables.
- The Executive should use all opportunities, including working with regional political leaders, to continue to lobby Government for long-term funding to support public transport networks, including support for driver recruitment and training schemes.
- Whilst the agreed 'Enhanced Partnership' approach should be pursued, alternative feasible models should be kept under review and lessons learned from the experience of other cities and regions."

(ii) From Cllr Pavlovic

Controlling the concentration of short term and holiday lets

"This council notes the rapid rise of whole property holiday lets in our city, particularly in wards in and around but not restricted to, the city centre.

Council welcomes more affordable holiday accommodation options and the positive impact this can have on the local economy. But Council has concerns about the unrestricted nature of whole home lets and their wider impact on a city with a long-standing and serious housing supply and affordability problem.

Council notes:

- the council's recent Housing Scrutiny report highlighting an almost tripling of whole-property holiday lets in York over the past four years;
- the unsatisfactory position on planning use for holidays lets, which lacks clarity and leaves local authorities with insufficient resources to take on the burden of proving 'material change of use' concerning holiday lets;
- Edinburgh's positive steps this year to control the unrestricted rise of holidays lets, showing what can be achieved where the political will exists;
- Rachael Maskell MP's current *Short-term and Holiday-let*

accommodation (Licensing) Bill progressing through Parliament, which seeks to confer powers on local authorities to both control the concentration of holiday lets and to introduce conditions on how such lets operate.

Council believes inaction now will undermine the council's Local Plan and its housing supply projections, by turning a blind eye to an escalating loss of family and other housing to the unregulated holiday lets sector. It also believes the financial incentives linked to holiday lets is resulting in no-fault evictions and tenancies being abruptly ended, potentially adding to the council's housing waiting list. Council recognises the impact on the private rented sector is already significant, and growing.

Council therefore calls on Executive to:

- agree to commence the process of compiling an evidence base, from which the council can consider adopting a new policy in the future on controlling the spread of short term and holiday let accommodation, post-adoption of the Local Plan;
- consider bringing forward, in a report to Executive in due course, options for s106 planning conditions that include, but are not restricted to:
 - exclusivity sales periods for York residents on new build developments;
 - main residence only conditions/restrictions on short term lets on new developments;
- consider the impact of short term and holiday lets in the development of the council's various housing policies, including the loss of ordinary family and other housing in York;
- ensure the council lobbies Government, through the Local Government Association and its two MPs, to alter the tax regime to ensure parity between short term lets operating as businesses, and long term lets, removing preferential treatment for the former.”

(iii) From Cllr Fisher

York opposes fracking

“This Council notes that:

- On 8th September, the Prime Minister announced plans to lift the ban on fracking for shale gas, breaking Conservative party's 2019 manifesto pledge to not press ahead with fracking without further scientific study.
- INEOS holds Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDL) for areas in and around York and Ryedale.
- Companies such as INEOS and Cuadrilla could seek permission to frack in areas where they hold PEDL licences.
- In 2018 City of York Councillors opposed fracking, outlining the Council's objections to fracking through 'permitted development' rights.
- extracting new fossil fuels distracts from investing in renewable projects and decarbonising heating systems
- Fracking could put communities at risk of micro-earthquakes, ground water contamination, loss of species and many other health and environmental hazards.
- There is a lack of evidence that fracking in the UK would lower bills for consumers. It has not done so in the USA.
- Earlier this February, after more than 7 years of work, councillors approved the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan which introduced controls on fracking in York and North Yorkshire if the government lifted the moratorium. The plan will be used to decide planning applications until 2030, with minimum distances between homes and well pads and for greater controls around protected areas.

Council believes that:

- Fracking poses unacceptable risks to people, livestock, wildlife, the climate and the environment, bringing with it the potential threat of earthquakes, water pollution, and green spaces transforming into industrial landscapes.
- With soaring energy bills and inflation overwhelmingly being driven by record-high gas prices – and with renewables four times cheaper – fracking is not the answer. Other sources of energy, including renewable, and 'buffers' such as battery storage, liquid air and hydrogen, are fast making any plans to

introduce fracking irrelevant.

- The UK has a vast potential for clean energy. Investment in renewable energy, public transport and energy efficiency will create far more jobs than fracking, deliver energy security, boost York's local economy and allow us to play our part in avoiding dangerous climate change.
- This announcement seriously calls into question the government's commitment to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and to move to net zero emissions by 2050.

This Council resolves to:

- Ask the COO to write on behalf of the Council to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Minister for State (Minister for Climate) to make them aware of the opposition to fracking in York, in light of the Government's statement that it will only progress with fracking where there is local support."

(iv) From Cllr Norman

Equality for Disabled People

"Disabled people make up around one quarter of the population and include people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, religions and sexual orientation. Disabled people have varying levels of independence, with some relying on statutory and voluntary services, while others don't.

Some with chronic health conditions, either physical or mental, regard themselves as being unwell rather than disabled, while others do not. Some people with impairment may self-identify as disabled people, whilst others may not.

In other words, disabled people have all the diversity of the non-disabled population.

This Council notes:

- that disabled people still experience widespread discrimination and attitudinal barriers in all aspects of daily life, including the provision of goods and services, the built environment, access to transport and housing across all sectors;

- that failure to provide accessible services of whatever type creates avoidable dependency;
- that its Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination which is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, encourage good relations and advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't;
- that combined with their own impairment issues, disabled people face many challenges in their daily lives as a result of avoidable barriers they experience;
- that disabled people collectively identify these barriers faced as the Social Model understanding of disability, in direct contrast to the Medical or Individual Models, which identify disabled people as either being or owning the 'problem' of disability.

This Council recognises:

- that city council decisions and policy made using the 'One Planet' tool will give confidence to the public where Equalities Impact Assessments (EqIAs) are completed consistently, helping contribute to the council fulfilling its PSED;
- there is currently a culture of expectation that disabled people will repeatedly participate in consultations and meetings without adequate consideration of their often challenging personal circumstances;
- its tendency to use the language of inclusion without the corresponding understanding of genuine inclusivity in its policy making processes;
- that co-production must be meaningful and the experience and expertise of disabled peoples' lived experience properly listened to, considered and embraced.

This Council resolves:

- to adopt the Social Model of Disability and embed it into every area of its working, operation, policy and practice, including in how it communicates;
- to review the extent to which disability awareness training, inclusive and universal design training and disability

equality is embedded across the organisation in how the council delivers services, making recommendations as appropriate;

- to prepare and adopt a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on building design, post Local Plan adoption, in order to deliver accessible and inclusive new developments in the future;
- to commit to genuine co-production on all council developments, where disabled people's views are incorporated alongside those of appropriate professionals when considering inclusion and accessibility;
- upon the appointment of an Access Officer, to convene a quarterly Access Forum, resourced so that it will work in an entirely inclusive and accessible way, supporting a genuine commitment to co-production."

9. Questions to the Leader or Executive Members

To question the Leader and/or Executive Members in respect of any matter within their portfolio responsibility, in accordance with Standing Order 20.

10. Report of Executive Member (Pages 43 - 54)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects and to question the Executive Member thereon, in accordance with Standing Order 19.

11. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Pages 55 - 60)

To receive a report from Councillor Crawshaw, Chair of the Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee, on the work of the Committee.

12. Recommendations of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee (Pages 61 - 62)

To consider the recommendations for approval set out below:

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Licensing & Regulatory Committee	4 October 2022	Minute 15: New Hackney Carriage Licences – Referral to Council

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Clid=606&MId=13839>

- 13. Appointments and Changes to Membership** (Pages 63 - 64)
To consider the appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies set out on the list attached to this summons.
- 14. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democratic Services officer

Fiona Young

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 552030
- Email fiona.young@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

www.york.gov.uk

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

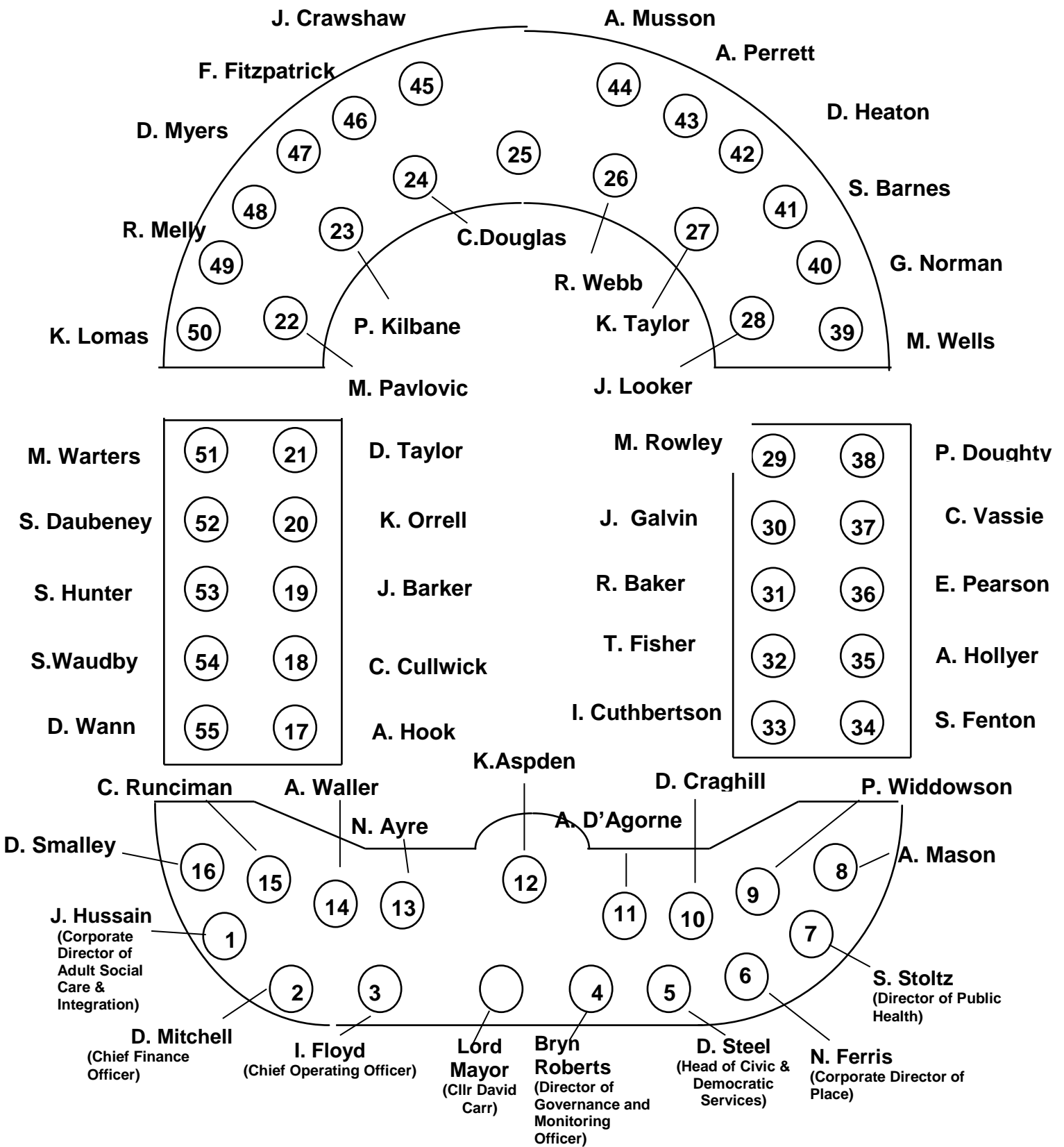
**Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim (Polish)
własnym języku.**

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

COUNCIL CHAMBER



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City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held at The Guildhall, York on Thursday, 14 July 2022, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr David Carr) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

Acomb Ward

Lomas
S Barnes

Bishopthorpe Ward

Galvin

Clifton Ward

D Myers
Wells

Copmanthorpe Ward**Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward**

Fenton
Mason
Widdowson

Fishergate Ward

D'Agorne
D Taylor

Fulford and Heslington Ward

Aspden

Guildhall Ward

Craghill
Fitzpatrick
Looker

Haxby & Wigginton Ward

Cuthbertson
Hollyer
Pearson

Heworth Ward

Douglas
Perrett
Webb

Heworth Without Ward

Ayre

Holgate Ward

Melly
K Taylor

Hull Road Ward

Musson
Norman
Pavlovic

Huntington and New Earswick
Ward

Cullwick
Orrell
Runciman

Micklegate Ward

Baker
Crawshaw
Kilbane

Osbaldwick and Derwent Ward

Rowley
Warters

Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward

Smalley
Waudby

Rural West York Ward

Hook

Strensall Ward

Doughty
Fisher

Westfield Ward

Daubeney
Hunter
Waller

Wheldrake Ward

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heaton and
Barker

1. Declarations of Interest (6:36 pm)

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. No interests were declared.

2. Minutes (6:37 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary meetings of Council held on 27 April 2022 and the Annual Council meeting held on 26 May 2022 be approved, and signed by the Chair as a correct record in each case.

3. Civic Announcements (6:39 pm)

The Lord Mayor made reference to the recent death of the broadcaster Harry Gration, who had been a resident of York and attended school in the city. Members observed a minute's silence in his memory.

The Lord Mayor went on to announce:

- The receipt of a gift of a paperweight from the Mayor of Thessalonika, which was available to view in the meeting room;
- The renewal of the York Armed Forces Covenant;
- The departure of the Monitoring Officer, Janie Berry, next month. He thanked Janie for her work with the Council since her arrival in 2018.

At a later point in the meeting, the Lord Mayor announced the imminent retirement of Charlie Croft, Assistant Director of Customer and Communities, after 26 years' service with the council. He invited Members to join with him in thanking Charlie for his achievements and wished him well for the future.

4. Public Participation (6:41 pm)

It was reported that there were 8 people registered to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Flick Williams spoke on Agenda Item 6 (Report of the Executive Leader), highlighting access issues in respect of the Council Chamber.

Fiona McCulloch spoke in support of the *Declaring a Cost of Living Emergency* motion at Item 8(ii), as Chief Executive of Citizens Advice York.

Adam Raffell also spoke in support of the *Declaring a Cost of Living Emergency* motion, as a representative of York Food Bank.

Linda Maskill spoke in support of the *Stop Unfair Parking Enforcement at Tower Court* motion at Item 8(iv), as a local resident affected by the parking enforcement.

Dave Thorp spoke on matters relevant to the Council or City, seeking a 'letter of enthusiasm' from the Council to support the production by Visualise Films Ltd. of a drama series set in York.

Stephen Howley spoke in support of the *Opposing Fire Service Cuts to the North Side of York* motion at Item 8(i), as leader of the Fire Brigade Union in North Yorkshire.

Gwen Swinburn spoke in support of the *Creating a More Collaborative Council* motion at Item 8(iii) and on governance issues as matters relevant to the Council or City.

Hon. Alderman Brian Watson spoke on the *Creating a More Collaborative Council* motion, broadly supporting the content of the motion.

5. Petitions (7:10 pm)

Under Standing Order 15, the following petitions were presented for reference to the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee, in accordance with the Council's petition arrangements:

- a) A petition from Cllr Doughty, on behalf of residents of Stockton on the Forest and Hopgrove seeking a number of road safety improvements in their area.
- b) A petition from Cllr Doughty, on behalf of from residents of Earswick calling for resurfacing of 'The Village' in Earswick.

- c) A petition from Cllr Perrett, on behalf of residents of Huntington Road Area, seeking consultation on the introduction of a Respark zone in their street.
- d) A petition from Cllr Webb, on behalf of residents of Dodsworth Avenue, seeking consultation on the introduction of a Respark zone in their street.
- e) A petition from Cllr Douglas, on behalf of residents of Harcourt Street Area, asking the council to investigate options to create a Low Traffic Neighbourhood in their area.

6. **Report of Executive Leader, Questions, and Executive Recommendations (7:15 pm)**

A – Executive Leader’s Report

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

Members were then invited to question the Leader on his report. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members in relation to the subjects listed, and replied to as indicated:

Local Plan Progress

From Cllr Pavlovic: As Vice Chair of Fulford Parish Council do you disagree with the parish council’s view, as expressed at the Phase 2 hearings, that the Local Plan is illegal and unsound?

Response: Yes.

[Supplementary: Were you at any of the Fulford PC meetings when that position was being taken and did you vote against it?]

I was at some of the meetings but not all and I would either have voted against or abstained, and made it clear that although I understood the views of some other parish councillors I personally felt that getting the Plan adopted was of over-riding importance, and not doing so would risk the government taking over and bringing back a Plan that no resident wanted.

From Cllr Warters: Are you willing to commit to fulfilling the will of Council (as per the motion approved in December 2021) and alleviating the concerns of residents by amending the policy on HMOs to reduce the accessibility threshold for HMOs in York,

given the inspectors' confirmation at the hearing this afternoon that this will not result in the collapse or delay of the Local Plan?

Response: I cannot comment on this afternoon's hearing as I wasn't there. A report came to Executive following that motion which sets out the position and the way forward. You could ask Cllr Ayre later, as he will be more sighted on the Local Plan.

Health Inequalities in York

From Cllr Douglas: The Leader will have received the briefing on health inequalities in York which stated that 40% of health differences are due to economic factors. Can he explain why there is nothing in the economic strategy to address this, and what is to be done?

Response: Inclusive growth is an important part of the strategy, which acknowledges this issue. A lot of work is being done on the draft Health & Wellbeing Strategy and on creating a new York Health Place, ensuring that the strategy focuses on priorities for York and the challenges around healthy life expectancy. The integrated care system will be a good opportunity if we can ensure that funding and decisions are at a level that matches York's priorities. Email me outside the meeting to link in to discussions with Cllrs Runciman, Waller and Mason on this important matter.

Financial Support for Residents

From Cllr Fenton: Significant resources have been invested by the council; what message are we sending to government to press the case for stability in funding not just to deal with current crises but in longer term local government finances?

Response: The impact of the pandemic on council finances and services has come on the back of years of hard challenges. So it is right to make the case, through the LGA and other organisations, for that long-term certainty needed to deliver important services and support to residents. We have joined a group led by Leicestershire County Council which has highlighted that the funding formula is not good for several councils including York, and we will continue to make that case.

York's Bid for GBR

From Cllr Wann: It was good to see York being shortlisted as a potential site for GBR; what are you doing personally to secure this and when will we hear the result?

Response: I don't know when we will hear; hopefully by the end of the summer. We are doing all we can to make sure of a 'yes'

result to the consultative vote, including working with partners on communications and community engagement. It's also about making sure we hit the government criteria, and there will be a ministerial visit in July, which is an opportunity to showcase York and how it could become an internationally recognised rail hub.

B – Executive Recommendations

Cllr Aspden moved, and Cllr D'Agorne seconded, the following recommendation contained in Minute 13 of the Executive meeting held on 16 June 2022:

Capital Programme Outturn 2021/22 and Revisions to the 2022/23 - 2026/27 Programme

Recommended: That Council approve the re-stated 2022/23 to 2026/27 programme of £525.049m, as summarised in Table 3 at paragraph 97 of the report and detailed in Annex A.

Reason: to enable the effective management and monitoring of the Council's capital programme.

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

Resolved: That the above recommendation be approved.¹

Action Required

1. To note the approval of the re-stated capital programme and take any action required. DM

7. Report of Deputy Leader and Questions (7:57 pm)

A written report was received from the Deputy Leader, Cllr D'Agorne.

Members were then invited to question the Deputy Leader on his report. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members in relation to the subjects listed, and replied to as indicated:

Clean Air Day 2022

From Cllr Rowley: You refer in your report to air pollution causing 36,000 deaths in the UK every year. Will you undertake an urgent

review on the closure of Penlys Grove Street and Navigation Road and reverse it if it proves to be causing more pollution than before due to longer traffic waits on Lord Mayor's Walk and Walmgate?

Response: The Groves project was subject to an extensive consultation process; an experimental TRO was in place for 18 months, during which there were significant fluctuations due to Covid, there was then a delay until the traffic pattern returned to normal. In making my decision I followed officers' advice, including on the issues you refer. The purpose of the annual Clean Air Day is to raise awareness, and officers have put in place a programme of reducing emissions from buses, alongside the message to 'switch off' car engines outside schools and in standing traffic to reduce pollution and save on fuel costs.

[Supplementary from Cllr Looker: Have you thought of taking it a stage further and having a car-free day in 2023?]

Response: That is a good suggestion, and something I have supported in the past, especially as some streets such as Fossgate, Micklegate and Bishopthorpe Road have organised their own such activities at a low cost to the council. Clean air is an issue that crosses portfolios, though I have mentioned it in my report because traffic is a major contributory factor.

Active Travel

From Cllr K Taylor: The walkway agreement between the NRM and the Highways department has been widely slammed by officials, residents and campaign groups. As Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Transport, what are you going to do to improve the agreement and involve ward councillors and residents?

Response: I am happy to provide a written reply; I am aware of the concerns and will do whatever I can to work with partners and try to improve the agreement.

8. **Motions on Notice (8:39 pm)**

(i) Opposing Fire Service Cuts to the North side of York

Cllr Myers sought consent to alter his motion to incorporate the amendment submitted by Cllr Hollyer.

Council having granted consent, the altered motion was moved by Cllr Myers and seconded by Cllr Wells, as follows:

“Council notes the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s current consultation on proposals affecting the future of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS), and its level of fire service cover across York.

Council further notes:

- a specific proposal to remove the full-time crewed engine from Huntington Station and replace it with an on-call crew, leading to significant increases in the time it takes for a fire engine to arrive at an incident;
- York residents’ current contribution of more than £5m per year in council tax precept payments to North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) - almost 25% of the total raised from this source;
- York’s businesses contribute one third of all business rate receipts that go towards funding the Fire Service, adding a further £1m from our city to the regional fire service budget;
- NYFRS receives the 11th lowest level of funding from council tax revenues of January 2022, placing it just above the eight lowest charging fire authorities nationally to whom the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has awarded the £5 precept flexibility - before a referendum is triggered.
- consecutive governments have left North Yorkshire fire and rescue service in a dangerous financial position having abolished the entirety of its capital funding and seen over £1.8m in annual funding cuts for fire and rescue services in North Yorkshire since 2016.
- a petition, set up by Liberal Democrat councillors in the North of York, calling for the proposals to be rejected has collected over 1000 signatures from local residents.
- ongoing ‘Fair Deal for York’s Fire Services’ campaign led by Liberal Democrat councillors, which has been previously endorsed by the Council.
- Liberal Democrat councillors from Huntington, Haxby, Wigginton, Strensall, New Earswick and Rawcliffe, have met representatives of the Fire Brigade Union as well as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to express their serious concerns over the proposals.

Council resolves:

- to formally oppose cuts to Huntington Station fire cover by submitting a City of York Council consultation response, outlining the city's view that current crewing and fire appliance arrangements at Huntington Station must be retained;
- to have that draft response published for public comment and decision at an Executive Member Decision Session prior to the consultation deadline of 14th August;

Council further resolves to write to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and MPs for York Central and York Outer, asking them to collectively write and seek an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to:

- carry out a comprehensive funding review of fire and police services in North Yorkshire, in order to futureproof sustainable service provision;
- make NYFRS's case for greater Government grant that address the unique challenges of delivering services across a large rural county, with diverse risks and very low levels of reserves;
- push for NYFRS to be given the option of agreeing the £5 precept flexibility, consistent with the other lowest charging fire authorities nationally."

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.¹

(ii) Declaring a Cost of Living Emergency

Moved by Cllr Hook and seconded by Cllr Ayre.

"Council notes that:

- There has been an unprecedented increase in the cost of living, which is having a significant impact on working people, pensioners, and those on benefits.
- This is in part caused by the rise in the Ofgem energy price cap, the National Insurance contributions increase, food and petrol/diesel price increases, rising inflation and wage growth stagnation.

- According to a report by the Resolution Foundation, people are facing the worst fall in living standards since the 1970s.
- According to data from the ONS, a typical household will have to spend an extra £1,287 due to rising cost of essentials and tax in 2022/-23.
- In 2021/22 York Foodbanks distributed food parcels at a rate of 5,545 per 100,000 people – a 64% increase compared to 5 years ago (Trussell Trust, 2022)
- The Council has invested £1,3million to support residents facing rising costs through the York Financial Assistance scheme (YFAS) since the start of the pandemic and has provided targeted support and advice to those in most need.

Despite the support the Council, central government and local organisations have been able to provide, it's clear that residents are experiencing serious financial challenges due to the rising cost of living, which are set to continue, impacting directly on their financial and mental wellbeing.

Consequently, Council resolves to:

- Declare a 'Cost of Living Emergency' in York.
- Ask the Executive to commit £200k towards the YFAS to issue additional food and fuel vouchers to approximately 4,000 residents on the lowest incomes.
- Host a local Cost-of-Living Emergency Summit, with stakeholders, including Citizens Advice, Food Banks, Local Trades Unions, and Chambers of Commerce and organisations working to support residents facing hardship.
- Call on the Government to act immediately to tackle the cost of living crisis by cutting the standard rate of VAT to 17.5%, restoring the Universal Credit supplement of £20, expanding the Warm Home Discount and introducing a home insulation fund to cut heating bills and carbon emissions.”

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.²

(iii) Creating a More Collaborative Council

Cllr Craghill sought consent to alter her motion to incorporate the amendment submitted by Cllr Fenton.

Following a vote, consent was granted and the altered motion was moved by Cllr Craghill and seconded by Cllr D'Agorne, as follows:

“This Council notes:

- That, along with other cities, York's communities face many challenges for the years ahead including the Climate and Ecological Emergency, rising energy prices, global economic insecurity and the cost of living crisis, which is also exacerbating existing inequalities in the city.
- That York also has many positive advantages and opportunities. However, the challenges we face as a council and as a city will be best tackled by all political parties working together as much as possible, pooling the talents of all councillors and making decisions in ways that are transparent and support public involvement as much as possible.

This Council further notes:

- That a number of councils around the country are moving away from an Executive or Cabinet model of decision making to a Committee System.
- That whilst a Committee System doesn't remove all political disagreement (and nor should it) it does mean that all councillors of all parties participate in decision making and all major decisions are automatically subject to public cross party scrutiny.
- That whilst cross-party decision-making committees (as opposed to only a small proportion of elected councillors in an Executive or Cabinet) are the key element of a committee system, there is also flexibility to develop detailed governance structures most suited to local circumstances.

This Council therefore resolves:

- to request Executive to begin the necessary preparatory work that would explore the various alternative governance models to identify the most suitable, deliverable and financially viable model, taking in account the governance implications of the creation of a combined authority in York and North

Yorkshire. This work would include the creation of a cross party task group, identification of the necessary funding, consultation with the Local Government Association and authorities which currently operate some type of committee system, such as Kent, Wirral, Bristol and Liverpool. A report would be brought to a meeting of the Executive to outline the financial and governance implications and possible next steps, enabling a decision on the formal adoption of any alternative forms of governance to be made in May 2023.”

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.³

(iv) Stop Unfair Parking Enforcement at Tower Court

Moved by Cllr Smalley and seconded by Cllr Waudby.

“Council notes that:

- A ‘no return within two hours’ policy is rigidly enforced at the privately-owned Tower Court car park at Clifton Moor.
- A number of residents have been adversely impacted by the application of this policy, for example when returning to Tower Court to collect prescriptions.
- This has been a concern particularly through the pandemic, with local councillors contacted numerous times about the unfair parking fines and having supported residents to successfully challenge these fines.
- The ward councillors for Rawcliffe & Clifton Without have launched a petition calling on Boulton Brooks Real Estate Ltd (owners of Tower Court) and ArdPark Ltd (parking enforcement operators at Tower Court) to end the heavy-handed enforcement of parking restrictions at Tower Court, review the parking enforcement method (no return within two hours) and to refund any parking charges issued to residents unreasonably.
- Owners of Tower Court, Boulton Brooks Real Estate, reportedly earn over £440k in rental income from the units at Tower Court ([as of 2018](#)), and yet continue to allow

ARDPark to fine residents £60 for visiting twice within two hours.

Council therefore resolves that:

- The City of York Council's Corporate Director for Economy & Place writes to Boulton Brooks Real Estate Ltd, ArDPark Ltd and the British Parking Association to seek a meeting to discuss the approach to enforcement at Tower Court and the impact it is having on residents, with a view to a more flexible approach being adopted."

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.⁴

Action Required

1. To note approval of the motion on Opposing Fire Services Cuts to the North Side of York and take appropriate action. IF
2. To note approval of the motion on Declaring a Cost of Living Emergency and take appropriate action. IF
3. To note approval of the motion on Creating a More Collaborative Council and take appropriate action. IF
4. To note approval of the motion to Stop Unfair Parking Enforcement at Tower Court and take appropriate action. NF

9. **Questions to the Leader or Executive Members (10:16 pm)**

Question to Cllr Waller, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education

From Cllr Webb: There has been a long decline in service standards after 6 years of Lib Dem administration. What will you do to arrest the problems caused by a constant change in leadership, especially by the creation and dissolution of a People Directorate?

Response: At the scrutiny meeting you attended, a detailed action plan was presented, building on work already in progress. A key aspect is the pace of change and we've changed the composition of the Corporate Parenting Board so that young people are included. The arrival of a new Director next week will assist the

process. Scrutiny raised no issues with the actions or time frame, and I am working with officers to ensure the timetable is kept to.

Question to Cllr Widdowson, Executive Member for Environment & Climate Change

From Cllr Warters: Will you apologise to the people of York for the state of the streets and in particular the grass cutting, which is actually undermining the pollination policy by cutting down wildflower areas?

Response: There has been a massive problem in recruiting people this year and the [grass on] verges has got much longer than it should have. Apologies have been communicated for the lateness of the first cuts. One area containing wildflowers was cut, by a new person working overtime who thought they were doing the right thing. A new training process is in place, and everyone is working hard to ensure the city looks as well as it can.

Question to Cllr D'Agorne, Executive Member for Transport

From Cllr Crawshaw: With reference to your earlier response to Cllr Looker, can you confirm whether there will be an exemption for Blue Badge holders if the car-free day goes ahead in 2023?

Response: I said that there are such events in some streets, such as Bishopthorpe Road. Provision is made for all to attend these, including Blue Badge holders.

Question to Cllr Runciman, Executive Member for Health & Adult Social Care

From Cllr Waudby: Can you give an update on how the health trainer service supports residents?

Response: We are celebrating the first year with our health trainers. They have spoken to and advised 400 people on how to stop smoking, and 200 people on how to eat healthily and manage their weight. They can also provide advice and support on reducing alcohol intake – there's a particular problem in York with drinking at home. It's a great service, personalised and easy to sign up to online.

Question to Cllr Craghill, Executive Member for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods

From Cllr Perrett: The boilers in some homes in Heworth Ward are too big for the residents' needs. Will you commit to looking into replacing these separately from the council house retrofit programme, as it is a unique problem?

Response: This does sound like a unique problem. I don't know the details but I am certainly prepared to look into it and get back to you.

Question to Cllr Ayre, Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects

From Cllr Daubeney: Can you give an update on the Shared Prosperity finance pot discussed at the last Executive meeting?

Response: Substantial progress has been made; the first meeting of the Shared Prosperity Board has taken place and the Board will meet again tomorrow to discuss how it will address some of the issues, with a view to reporting to government at the end of July.

10. Report of Executive Member (10:30 pm)

A written report was received from Cllr Smalley, the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure & Communities.

11. Joint Standards Committee Annual report for 2021/2022 (8:08 pm)

Cllr Rowley as Chair of Joint Standards Committee moved, Cllr Fisher seconded, and Council

Resolved: That the Joint Standards Committee Annual Report for 2021/2022 be received.

12. Amendments to the Council's Constitution (8:11 pm)

Cllr Aspden moved, and Cllr D'Agorne seconded, the following recommendations contained in the report of the Monitoring Officer at page 95 of the agenda papers:

“Full Council is invited to approve the amendments to the Council's constitution as follows:

- 1) To approve the amendments made to Article 12 – Shareholders Committee;
- 2) To approve the amendments made to Article 20 – Corporate Parenting;
- 3) To approve the amendments made to Article 15 – Corporate Appeals;
- 4) To approve the amendments made to Article 18 - Health and Wellbeing Board;

- 5) To approve the appointment of the Main Opposition Group Shadow Lead Members for both Children and Adults to the Corporate Parenting Board;
- 6) To instruct the Monitoring Officer to ensure the Council's Constitution is updated in accordance with the recommendations of Full Council.

Full Council is asked to note:

The Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee has been consulted in respect of the updating amendments to the Constitution and that this report will be retrospectively report to the next meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee.

Reason: These amendments will ensure that the Constitution remains up to date and fit for purpose to support the council's decision making framework.”

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

Resolved: That the above recommendations be approved.¹

Action Required

1. Make the agreed amendments to the Constitution JB

13. Appointment of Independent Member to the Audit & Governance Committee and Appointment of Independent Persons to the Joint Standards Committee (8:12 pm)

Cllr Lomas moved, and Cllr Fisher seconded, the following recommendations contained in the report of the Monitoring Officer at page 125 of the agenda papers:

“Full Council is invited to approve the amendments to the Council's constitution as follows:

- 1) To confirm the appointment of Mr Richard Gadd and Mr Joe Leigh as Independent Persons on the Joint Standards Committee;
- 2) To confirm the appointment of Mr Joe Leigh as an Independent Member on the Audit & Governance Committee.

Reason: These appointments will support the council's governance framework including the ethical governance framework."

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

Resolved: That the above recommendations be approved.¹

Action Required

1. Make the agreed amendments to the Constitution. JB

14. Appointments and Changes to Membership (10:31 pm)

Resolved: That the appointments and changes to membership on the list at page 129 of the agenda papers be approved.¹

Action Required

1. Make the agreed changes to the membership on the system. JB

Cllr D Carr

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.34 pm and concluded at 10.32 pm]

City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held at The Guildhall, York on Thursday, 6 October 2022, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr David Carr) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

Acomb Ward	Bishopthorpe Ward
Lomas	Galvin
Clifton Ward	Copmanthorpe Ward
D Myers Wells	
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	Fishergate Ward
Fenton Mason Widdowson	D'Agorne D Taylor
Fulford and Heslington Ward	Guildhall Ward
Aspden	Craghill Fitzpatrick
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	Heworth Ward
Cuthbertson Hollyer Pearson	Douglas Perrett
Heworth Without Ward	Holgate Ward
Ayre	Heaton Melly K Taylor

Hull Road Ward

Musson
Norman

Huntington and New Earswick
Ward

Cullwick
Runciman

Micklegate Ward

Baker
Crawshaw
Kilbane

Osbalwick and Derwent Ward

Rowley

Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward

Smalley
Wann
Waudby

Rural West York Ward

Hook

Strensall Ward

Doughty
Fisher

Westfield Ward

Daubeney
Hunter
Waller

Wheldrake Ward

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker, Barnes, Looker, Pavlovic, Orrell, Warters and Webb.

15. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. No interests were declared.

16. Public Participation

It was reported that 7 people had registered to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme, in relation to the business on the agenda; namely, the Devolution Deal. Two of the registered speakers were unable to attend.

Lee Probert spoke on behalf of Higher York, supporting the Devolution Deal as a focus for inward investment and an opportunity to secure other funding sources, in order to advance the shared priorities of York and North Yorkshire.

Joan Concannon spoke on behalf of the Bio Yorkshire Partnership, welcoming the Deal and highlighting the economic, cultural and social benefits it would bring to the region.

Geoff Beacon, a local resident, welcomed the proposed new combined authority and expressed the wish that it abandon the Local Plan and make positive changes to residents' way of life.

Hon. Alderman Brian Watson asked why Members were now supporting devolution and stressed the need for full consultation, including with residents, before proceeding further.

Peter Richardson, a local resident, urged Council to reject the Devolution Deal, on the grounds that it would not deliver enough funding to divide between the city and towns of the region.

17. Agree the Devolution Deal and Commence Consultation

Cllr Aspden moved, and Cllr D'Agorne seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 40 of the Executive meeting held on 6 October 2022:

“Recommended: That Council:

- (i) Approve the minded to Devolution deal.
- (ii) Approve The Governance Review as identified in Appendix 1 to the report.
- (iii) Approve publication of the Scheme at Appendix 2 for consultation and delegate to the Monitoring Officer any changes and actions needed to ensure that a full consultation exercise is conducted for the area.
- (iv) Delegate authority to the S151 Officer, in consultation with the Executive Members for Finance and Major Projects, to approve with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), work up the details of, and implement the financial arrangements, including a risk share mechanism and funding source.
- (v) Grant approval to cashflow, with NYCC, initial implementation costs of £600k (ahead of the funding being available to be drawn down) and agree to receive a further report once the full implementation costs are known.
- (vi) Approve the creation of a Joint Devolution Committee with NYCC and delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader, to approve the final terms of reference as agreed with NYCC.
- (vii) Approve the addition of £2m to the Capital Programme for affordable low carbon homes with any expenditure subject to the agreement of the S151 Officer upon business case approval and confirmation of grant conditions.

Reason: On the basis of the content of the report, and the beneficial Devolution Deal.”

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were declared CARRIED unanimously, and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendations be approved.

Cllr

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 7.28 pm]

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Council**20 October 2022****Report of the Leader of the Council**

Since my last report to Full Council in July, a great deal has happened. We now have a new Prime Minister and Cabinet; the country sadly lost Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II following her 70-year reign, and the Cost of Living Crisis has worsened. As we enter the final three months of 2022, there is undoubtedly many challenges that face our residents, businesses and communities; challenges that are beyond our control as a Council. Yet, despite this, we know that there is outstanding work taking place here in York to meet these issues head on and bring about a better quality of life for the people of our city.

As ever, it has remained a busy and difficult past few months, so I would like begin this report by thanking our staff, residents, businesses, fellow councillors and city partners for their continued contribution to our city, even during difficult circumstances, from supporting Operation London Bridge, to responding to the current Cost of Living Crisis – thank you.

Devolution:

I would like to thank colleagues for their support and contribution to our last extraordinary meeting of Full Council, where it was agreed that the Council would proceed and undertake the statutory consultation on the proposed deal and Scheme.

The proposed devolution deal is designed to secure investment on a much larger scale than we are currently able to access. It is the only city and rural region deal on this scale, previously achieved by the likes of Greater Manchester, the West Midlands and South and West Yorkshire.

If agreed by colleagues in the New Year, a new combined authority will be created with a directly elected mayor, who will have powers to invest £540million of new money in transport, housing, and education over the next 30 years. The proposed deal also looks to secure York's influence in the new working arrangements of the Combined Authority. This will be supported by a transfer of powers and devolved budgets from Whitehall, meaning there will be more flexibility over how best to spend money on local priorities, such as transport, affordable housing and economic development sites.

Colleagues know the significance of devolution and the potential changes to local governance in our city, and therefore, it is crucial that the upcoming consultation seeks the views and thoughts of residents, communities, and businesses across the city. The consultation on the details and timeline of a mayoral-led combined authority for York and North Yorkshire will launch later this month, lasting a period of 8 weeks. Colleagues will then have a final opportunity to consider the deal, alongside the feedback received from the consultation, later in the New Year.

Cost of Living Crisis:

As everyone will be fully aware, the worsening Cost of Living Crisis and current economic outlook continue to have a detrimental impact on residents, businesses, and organisations across the city, particularly those individuals and families already facing financial hardship.

In May, the Executive agreed recommendations, received from Scrutiny, to help respond to the anticipated increase in the number of children claiming free school meals. This included allocating the remaining £43,000 in the holiday food budget to provide supermarket vouchers to families who are in need and for whom other support may be inaccessible. This was in addition to the £50,000 already invested to provide food vouchers to families in times of need, not just in the school holidays. Over £1 million was also invested in our Household Support Fund to help during the Cost of Living Crisis, but this funding will only go so far.

Recognising the widespread impact the current crisis is having on our city, the Council is working to convene a Cost of Living Summit on the 31st October, following the previously agreed Council motion, in order to draw together expertise across all sectors, learn from residents and businesses on their experiences and crucially, identify where we can work together with our partners to develop a more coordinated response to the current crisis, recognising that the Council with its limited financial means cannot make the difference alone.

The current state of public finances and recent change in fiscal approach outlined by the new Chancellor is also a cause of concern, not only for City of York Council, but the entire Local Government family. Local

authorities up and down the country have been at the forefront of the country's response to the pandemic, supporting refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine, and managing increasing demand for social services. At the same time, rising inflation, rampant energy bills, cuts to council resources and lack of action on Social Care funding have resulted in depleted Council budgets.

Following the Conservative Party Conference earlier this month, views and opinions raised by Ministers in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will not fill Local Government with confidence that support will be there when we need it most. Unless there is a change in approach, this will mean difficult financial decisions for Councils up and down the country, and the City of York Council is no different. That is why our continued cross-party lobbying efforts are needed now more than ever.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:

Following the sad passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September 2022, communities across York came together to share their condolences and commemorate the life and service of Queen Elizabeth II.

For many in the city, it was an emotional goodbye to the longest-serving monarch in British history. A letter of condolence was sent to The Royal Family by the, The Lord Mayor of York, myself and the Deputy Leader; flags across the city flew at half-mast to mark the period of national mourning; and books of condolences were made available across the city, including West Offices, so residents could pay their respects.

York has always had a strong affinity with the Royal Family and many residents in York will remember The Queen's visits and connections to our city, including reopening York Minster following the 1984 fire and more recently in 2012 for the Royal Maundy service. As Head of State for over 70 years, The Queen has been a part of most, if not all our lives including, importantly, a connection to our wartime generations.

I would like to thank colleagues and council staff for their work as part of Operation London Bridge, from ensuring our city's civic traditions were upheld during the passing of the monarch, to re-arranging council meetings and helping to organise the regional and local proclamations of His Majesty The King.

York Central:

Colleagues will know that work has begun by John Sisk and Son Ltd to deliver over £100m of vital infrastructure needed to unlock the York Central site. More recently, site preparation works were carried out by the Council and partners, which included creating the site compound and temporary access, clearing vegetation on land owned by Homes England and Network Rail and removing three disused buildings.

Over the next three years, John Sisk and Son will deliver the second phase of key infrastructure works, including the construction of a new road bridge and a new pedestrian and cycle footbridge over the East Coast Main Line railway, two kilometres of road (with separated cycle and pedestrian paths) that will connect Water End through the site to Leeman Road, and a rail spur to the National Railway Museum. John Sisk and Son will also provide the earthworks and utility works for the entire site.

The potential investment of up to £50 million to support and deliver the York Central brownfield regeneration scheme, secured as part of the proposed Devolution deal, is also positive progress towards further unlocking this transformational project, and indeed recognition of the benefits York Central could have for our city and the wider region.

Enhanced Bus Partnership and Bus Services:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for engaging and sharing their views on the draft Enhanced Bus Partnership agreement, which will be considered before the improvement programme begins. In July 2022, the DfT confirmed a funding award of over £17 million for York as part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The creation of the 'Enhanced Partnership' is a condition for receiving the BSIP funding, in which York was one of only two places in Yorkshire to receive indicative BSIP funding. Once confirmed, the funding will enable the council and local bus operators to implement a wide range of improvements to the city's bus network and associated infrastructure, from improvements to bus stops, to better ticketing options.

Colleagues and residents will be aware of some ongoing concerns that local operators have expressed over the lack of sustainable long terms

funding deals that would support current services. I know that intensive work is currently taking place by officers and providers to encourage and support residents to return to buses and retain as many services as possible. Whilst the government's decision to extend crucial emergency support until next March is welcome news, we must all be aware that this merely delays the cliff edge for another six months.

I have written to the new Transport Secretary to warn her that local operators are still contemplating cuts as bus services are still reeling from the impact of the pandemic. Bus driver shortages, low passenger numbers and impending funding cliff edges is leaving services in a constant state of retreat, in York and across the region. I have asked her to urgently provide a sustainable, long-term funding deal for buses, one which will prevent the need for any further cuts and most vitally support driver recruitment and retention. This, alongside the plans laid out in the Enhanced Bus Partnership plans, would ensure that services are there for communities when they need them.

Haxby Railway Station:

Colleagues will know that efforts to deliver a new railway station in Haxby is one of this administration's priority projects and therefore, I am pleased that we are making continued progress on this scheme, with the support of the local community driving the project.

Haxby & Wigginton residents have been waiting patiently for a much-needed new railway station, one which will offer residents more sustainable travel options and improve connections including to local towns and cities. This, alongside our other major transport projects, such as the dualling of the Ring Road and investment in bus infrastructure, will lead to improved connectivity and commuting opportunities for our residents.

The chosen site has clear benefits; however, there will clearly be some legitimate concerns over local impacts, so it's crucial that the community is kept involved in the project to help mitigate any concerns and make Haxby station a real asset for the local community and the wider region. I look forward to our continued work with the local community, Network Rail, and the DfT to move this major project forward and ensure that a new station is delivered to the benefit of the city.

Purple Flag:

Last month, I was pleased to be joined by council officers, Make it York, North Yorkshire Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner at a roundtable to consider further actions we could take to promote a safe, enjoyable and family-friendly evening and night time economy in York, as part of the city's Purple Flag accreditation.

Following a successful and constructive discussion, actions were agreed by all partners to continue our work together to address anti-social behaviour, particularly in the run-up to the festive season, and to continue to promote York as a safe place to visit. This work will look to build on measures already agreed earlier this year to help protect the city centre and nearby residential areas from alcohol-related anti-social behaviour. Following 2 separate consultations in February this year, over 90% of respondents agreed to the reintroduction of powers to address groups drinking and associated anti-social behaviour.

Ultimately, we must continue to build on the work achieved under Purple Flag and with our partners, continue to improve on our evening and night-time economy offer, including taking firmer action on anti-social behaviour and building on our city's outstanding reputation as a safe city to visit and enjoy.

Recycling:

Colleagues will be pleased to know that our waste teams will be expanding the range of materials collected at the kerbside. In an effort to make it easier for residents to recycle even more, the following items can now be collected as part of our expanded recycling collections:

- Foil;
- More plastic bottles (such as fruit shoot bottles);
- Cleaning product bottles with lids and trigger spray nozzles;
- Plastic yoghurt pots;
- Margarine tubs;
- And light-coloured and clear plastic food trays.

We know residents are doing an excellent job of recycling in York, with around 43% of all waste being either reused, recycled, or composted. The addition of foil and more plastics to kerbside collections will help us

further boost our recycling rates and continue our work to make York greener and cleaner.

School Attendance Campaign:

With the new academic year underway, the Council has been working with schools in the city to launch a new campaign to help encourage regular school attendance and emphasise its importance. The campaign highlights the long-term positive impacts that regular school attendance brings, together with the potential negative implications that are linked to poor attendance.

We want to help every pupil in the city to reach their full potential and young people who attend school regularly are more likely to get the training and skills they need for the career they choose to embark on, as well as be less likely to be involved in antisocial behaviour and crime.

The last couple of years have been incredibly difficult for young people with disruption caused by the covid pandemic, and this has had a negative impact on school attendance across the country, including in York. Schools across the city are working with families and young people who are struggling with school attendance, and it is important that any parent or carer concerned about their child's attendance get in touch with their school straight away to discuss any issues before they escalate.

Energy Efficiency Grants:

The Council has partnered with E.ON to help deliver over £2 million of energy efficiency measures to homeowners and tenants who rent their home from a private landlord.

The Green Homes Funding grants are for households with a total income of £30,000 or less, who live in a property with a low energy efficiency rating. Eligible homeowners could be awarded up to £10,000 of free energy-saving measures. For tenants of privately rented properties, the landlord will need to give permission and will be required to contribute a third of the cost of the works with a maximum grant of £5,000.

Eligible residents can apply for these grants to cover a variety of energy-saving installations. These could include fitting exterior wall and underfloor insulation, installing air source heat pumps and solar photovoltaic panels to generate electricity.

The grants are a result of the council's successful bid for funding to help pay for energy efficiency measures to be fitted in York homes.

York's Dementia Strategy:

Following approval of York's Dementia Strategy, a programme of inspiring dementia-related activities were held last month to help launch the new strategy.

During September, a series of activities, information events, and training sessions were run by members of the city's dementia partnership to mark the publication of 'Dementia Together'. The partnership includes the Alzheimer's Society, Dementia Forward, York Health and Care Partnership, York Minds and Voices, and Healthwatch.

The programme was well received by those who attended, offering a wide variety of events which reflect the strategy's key themes of Preventing Well, Diagnosing Well, Supporting Well, Living Well and Dying Well. The sessions covered topics ranging from addressing positive mental health, to dementia care training; home technology to support young-onset dementia diagnosis; support for families and carers, a theatrical workshop on dementia in the LGBT community, to making paper birds and a group bike ride.

York Jobs Fair:

More than 70 York employers and 400 residents attended this year's York Jobs Fair, the biggest since the start of the pandemic.

The event at the York Railway Institute saw employers including Marks and Spencer, Hiscox, The Grand Hotel, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service in attendance. Several education institutions also helped provide residents with information and guidance about acquiring new skills, new jobs or changing their employment in York.

The event, which is funded by City of York Council and organised by York Learning in partnership with Job Centre Plus, was very well received by both employers and would-be jobseekers.

Many colleagues will know that the York Job Fairs are always hugely popular both with employers and prospective employees and I'm delighted at how much they've grown since 2012, when the first such event was organised in York. It was fantastic to see how many local and regional businesses were at the York Railway Institute to offer new opportunities, career changes and qualifications to local residents, particularly after a few difficult years.

York Business Festival:

The programme of events for York Business Festival 2022 has now been published and is due to be held next month. Now in its 12th year, York Business Festival 2022 will be a month-long programme of free events from the 1st November, to the 30th November.

This year's festival will focus on how to support growth and spark innovation for local businesses, given the context of current and future challenges. The events will cater to all business needs and have been developed around the new 10-Year Economic Strategy. The programme will include a series of sessions supported by various partners that cover 5 major themes. These are:

- An economy driven by good business.
- Thriving businesses - the right conditions for Sustainable Growth.
- Reducing carbon - a greener economy.
- Developing our people - a thriving workforce.
- York as a global city.

The month-long festival will see local, regional, national, and international speakers come together to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing our economy and local businesses. I would encourage fellow councillors to take a look at this year's festival programme and where possible, enjoy the wealth of events on offer this year.

Rugby League World Cup:

Next month, the Rugby League World Cup comes to York, as the LNER Community Stadium will host a women's group game and both women's semi-finals. We're also delighted to welcome the New Zealand Men's Rugby League team to York, the first of a number of teams that will be staying in the city for the Rugby League World Cup, including the women's world champions, Australia.

This tournament will be viewed across the world, and I have no doubt these teams will inspire a new generation of athletes here in York. We will be working with our partners to ensure this event creates a long-lasting legacy for the sport and the wider community, with resident engagement set to be a key part of the programme.

Bringing this world event to York is the result of a huge partnership effort, and I know that our residents will give all the teams a fantastic welcome. I hope the teams enjoy their stay in York and I'm sure colleagues will join me in wishing them all the best in their matches.

Council

20 October 2022

Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Cost of living crisis

The council is working to support residents through the cost of living crisis, in partnership with money experts who are hosting a month of activities, events and signposting.

From 11 October to 11 November, the partnership is encouraging everyone to make sure they're getting everything they're entitled to; to maximise income and reduce outgoings; and not to suffer alone. Whether or not someone is struggling with money or not, going through these steps can make a big difference.

While some benefits may be familiar, there could be others that residents haven't heard of and may be entitled to, such as Pension Credit. Even residents with savings or their own home could be eligible. Maximising income by reducing outgoings could include tips on how to trim home energy usage or moving to cheaper suppliers.

This crisis has made it more important than ever to start conversations about money, a step which could help residents to become more financially confident and resilient. There is advice and information available to everyone, no matter what their situation.

Supporting this work through the partnership are organisations such as Older Citizens Advocacy York, York Energy Advice, Stop Loan Sharks and Community First Credit Union.

This campaign is building on the first Challenge Poverty, Talk Money Month held last year and on a week of action held in May 2022. It is also being supported by an ongoing campaign to signpost people to sources of information and advice, and the next edition of the *Our City* newsletter:

Cllr Ayre can tell you more about the £13.6 million being paid out this year to residents eligible for a range of support the Council and from the Government. It may be helpful to tell residents about the Government's independent and anonymous benefits calculators to see what financial

support can be claimed at www.gov.uk/benefitscalculators. Advice is also available across the city from your local community venue or library.”:

Installing energy efficiency measures makes your home cheaper to heat. The Green Homes Grants include improvements such as loft insulation, under floor insulation, external wall insulation, PV solar panels and air source heat pumps. Call 0333 202 4820 or visit www.york.gov.uk/GreenHomesFunding for more details

Devolution Deal

Following the approval at the special full council meeting earlier this month, local consultation is now set to begin on the Devolution Deal for York and North Yorkshire. The proposed deal marks a major milestone for York, with significant government funding for the region over the next 30 years and the opportunity to work together across North Yorkshire to deliver greater autonomy and tackle the climate and cost of living crisis we face. After many months of discussion we have reached the point where the statutory consultation gets underway

I would like to thank all the officers who have spent many hours working up this proposal in partnership with colleagues in North Yorkshire, securing a wide range of elements which will be of significant importance to our city and the future prosperity and wellbeing of our citizens. At this time when all local government budgets are under severe strain it is important to consider that this funding is only available to us through this deal. The proposed deal also comes with some new powers that are devolved down from central government or other agencies, bringing new powers closer to the people in the city, albeit regionally.

There are some very important elements including the provision of an additional £50m for York Central to help us to bring forward an exemplar zero carbon development that provides economic prosperity and affordable living at the heart of York yet helping to sustain our historic city close by.

I do acknowledge the position of many including my party in opposing the centralising of power in the metro mayor model, particularly given that some powers including some transport powers will be moved up to the region’s new combined authority. However, as mentioned earlier, this is a government process in which we have very little control and

fundamentally, if we want to secure that investment, this is the only deal on the table. .

Devolution can help us accelerate the local and regional work we are undertaking to address many of our challenges, including access to significant devolved transport budgets (and powers such as bus franchising) from Government. The scale of investment could help us to work more effectively across the region to tackle the climate emergency on a wider scale following the carbon reduction pathway which has been mapped out by the LEP and the regional climate commission.

On such an important matter, it is only right that we ensure that we consult widely and engage with all stakeholders and residents before a final decision. Feedback from the communities in our city will be essential to helping us all consider that decision, so it is important we can get moving on the consultation and welcome contributions to help ensure that we get the governance right for the new Combined Authority and the elected mayor with effect from May 2024 .

Bus Service Improvement Plan and Bus Services

This is a critical time for public transport in the face of changing travel patterns, increased costs and staffing challenges. I am very much aware of the concerns for the future of bus services in the city, especially seeing the scale of cuts threatened in other parts of the country. Despite changes in government I hope that the recent last minute additional 6 months of funding to operators is a sign that the government is still committed to its Better Bus strategy. We also have the prospects of promotional £2 single fares from Jan 2023 but will need to work with operators and the DfT to ensure that York residents get the maximum long term benefits from such innovation.

York was one of only two places in the Yorkshire region to receive indicative BSIP funding. Our BSIP sets out how we will continue its long-standing programme to improve bus services in York to encourage greater use of the service – in support of the city’s local transport and environmental policies, and to recover service use to levels seen before the covid pandemic – indeed higher than that.

As explained in the report approved by Executive earlier this month, the Enhanced Partnership has now been ‘made’ and funding will secure upgrades to York’s bus infrastructure, including stops, shelters,

improved bus information and real-time information screens, as well as improvements to local bus service levels and new bus priorities. Another key part of the plan is also improved ticketing and cheaper fares for young people. Park and Ride site upgrades will also be undertaken through this investment, including overnight parking and improved connections to longer-distance bus services. However the funding will not entirely shield us from the impact of changing travel patterns, and the bus network review being conducted now will help to identify changes that are needed to create a comprehensive but sustainable range of provision for all parts of York.

Many of the proposed BSIP Enhanced Partnership measures are designed to improve accessibility both in terms of physical access and information. The plans for example also include a feasibility study of a new city centre shuttle service and provision of audio-visual announcements on buses and at bus stops.

We're committed to delivering bold, local action to deliver economic and social benefits, such as new green jobs, economic savings and much improved well-being for York residents. Improved public transport is not only a benefit to local people and the local economy, but also a key tool in meeting our climate emergency and Net Zero commitments.

The BSIP funding and this new partnership represent a great opportunity to drive change through very significant investment. The Enhanced Partnership has now been established and work will soon be underway to start implementing the measures within the improvement plan. I am pleased to report that a range of user groups and local organisations have already been invited to nominate representatives for the 'Enhanced Partnership Forum' which will have a crucial role in helping to shape service provision and guide the delivery of the plan.

New Electric Buses

Colleagues may remember that earlier this year the Council was successful in securing the second largest funding allocation in the country from the DfT to deliver new electric buses, over £8 million from the Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) funding scheme. This follows on from the significant investment in 2020 securing the existing fleet of locally manufactured Optaire double decker electric buses, making a significant improvement to air quality within the city and helping to reduce running costs and carbon impact of the whole service.

Following that work, First Bus has now placed an order for 44 Electric Vehicle buses with UK manufacturer Wrightbus, investing £10.2 million of their own funding in the new vehicles, along with the further £8.4 million from ZEBRA grant complete the electric fleet project. The investment includes:

24 single-decker buses and 20 double-decker buses will save nearly 2,700 tonnes of CO2 every year, and the first vehicles expected to arrive in 2023. This is the largest ever UK EV bus order outside of London, and it is estimated that the project will be completed over the course of the next 2 years.

Haxby Station

Progress has been made in recent months on the project includes the completion of a resident consultation, securing of an additional £1.1m funding from government and the submission of a Levelling Up Fund bid to improve the infrastructure which will support sustainable travel options for travel to and from the station.

The recent government funding announcement represents another positive step for the project. This funding and the progress made most recently will ensure we are ready - if the full funding is agreed by government – to build a new station at Haxby by 2024.

The new station would provide direct access to the rail network for thousands of local residents from Haxby, Wigginton, and surrounding communities. This means improved access to new employment, business and leisure opportunities, increasing connectivity for our part of York, and providing faster, more efficient, and sustainable travel.

I look forward to working with local stakeholders and delivery partners to ensure that this project is finally realised and brings the desired benefits for the local community and the city.

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Council**20 October 2022****Report of the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects**

The Council continues to provide crucial support to residents and businesses across the city as the Cost of Living Crisis deepens. There is also a great deal of progress being made on all aspects in my portfolio – from human resources management, to delivery of major projects.

Cost of Living support

I am truly proud of the support that Council teams have been able to give to residents since the start of the pandemic and more recently, during the current Cost of Living Crisis - from advice, to fuel and food vouchers, the Housing Hardship Fund for council tenants, small grants to support Financial Inclusion activities as well as larger grants to voluntary and community sector organisations.

As is evident in our ongoing work, this administration is focused on supporting those struggling the most – through words and actions. So far this financial year we have paid or are paying over £13.6 million to residents eligible for a range of support from the Council and from the Government.

Energy Rebate scheme - 74,000 households paid £150 each. Total £11.1m

Household Support Fund – 7,200 households paid. Total £1m

Food and Fuel vouchers – Over 2,000 vouchers issued. Total over £100k

626 applications (YFAS) Payments totalling £143k

98 Discretionary Housing Payments totalling £87k

The Business Rates team have awarded the Covid Additional Restrictions Fund (CARF) reduction to circa 1000 business rates accounts amounting to approximately £4 million. The Team have been working with the Economic Growth team to identify any new qualifying cases, and we awarded CARF to over 600 more businesses by the end of September.

Working together throughout this time has been crucial – through existing partnerships and for example, the financial inclusion steering group. Partner organisations, voluntary sector, community groups – countless people across the city are working incredibly hard to support residents and businesses across the city and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their valued contribution.

Following the approval of the Cost of Living Emergency motion at July's Full Council meeting, further food and fuel vouchers have been issued and a Cost of Living Summit with key city and regional partners is set to be held on the 31st October.

Financial Management and Strategy

Rising inflation and Cost of Living Crisis is further affecting an already difficult financial outlook following years of central Government underfunding of essential Council run services. Our focus currently is on budget monitoring and cost control, with active work ongoing to identify mitigation and support services to manage costs that have arisen since the budget was set.

Continued uncertainty from central Government and related spending announcements is making medium term financial planning a challenge. Significant amount of work is going into reviewing the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

In respect of procurement, work continues to ensure we are achieving value for money in all our procurements as well as using our buying power to secure social value benefits. 61% of our third party spend in the first quarter of 2022/23 was with SME's, a total of £29m.

2021/22 statement of accounts completed and delivered to external auditors. Period of public inspection completed during July & August.

Bereavement Services

Planning permission has been granted for the waiting room and progress is expected across the coming autumn and winter months with the building work.

Business Intelligence

Business Intelligence continue to support the organisation's day-to-day operational and performance data and reporting processes, with support for all CYC business areas via providing information through platforms such as the KPI machine, Singleview, YorkMap, and YorkOpenData to senior managers, staff and residents.

The scale and complexity of statutory data returns in Local Government, to support residents' outcomes and Council funding, has grown over the last few years, and is likely to increase with new requirements around Housing, Adult Social Care, and workforce planning areas. The team, working with other internal colleagues, are heavily involved in the smooth running of data assurance processes, through numerous system governance boards and performance meetings; this allows the completion of all forms of statutory returns, supports the internal and external performance structure, and allows residents to access information which the Council is custodian of through geographic profiles, interactive tools, and data and information within public-facing documents.

Technology and systems that the Council uses are constantly evolving as new products enter the market and old systems are decommissioned. All these systems contain data that needs to be available for staff and residents. Therefore, the team are currently involved in a number of complex technical projects to support business areas, from creating data architecture, migration and transfer processes for the variety of new software and case management systems being introduced across the Council, to also building and maintaining data warehousing so that information can be shared between teams and departments to allow staff and residents to see the holistic picture of interaction.

The Summer and Autumn has seen a wide breath of activity, with examples that includes; Statutory returns in Housing, Schools census's, enabling data systems for Ukranians, consultations with residents, provision of Workforce information for equalities and profiling reasons, and the continued publication of over 1000 datasets for transparency reasons.

Register Office

We are having a busy year with weddings with bookings for the current financial year exceeding those undertaken in the whole of last year (currently 1064 bookings) with 406 already booked for 2023/24.

In June we submitted an Annual Performance Report to the General Registrar's Office and received the following feedback:

We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank York Registration Service for the hard work undertaken during 2021/22. This has undoubtedly been a very challenging year for Local Registration Services as we move from the pressures of operating during a pandemic towards more normal working practices, including the return of face-to-face appointments. The work of York Registration Service to maintain high standards of service delivery during this period should be commended.

Our first Citizenship ceremony with King Charles III as sovereign took place at the Mansion House last week. Citizens swore allegiance to our new King for the first time.

Payroll

This small team which services schools as well as the council has delivered so far this year a range of changes including 21/22 pay settlements and national insurance changes. The challenge ahead is reversing the national insurance changes, bringing in the new rate of income tax and the 22/23 pay settlement.

The team are also responsible for administering the Local Government, Teachers and NHS pension schemes. Significant changes have been made to the method of reporting pensions data and required implementation of new systems which are ongoing.

ICT

The Team continue to work hard to protect the council from cyber security threats and ensure the council's systems are operating safely and to the latest upgrades - an example of this is the Open Housing System and the latest office systems. They are supporting the council's

Working as One programme, particularly with new ways of working developed during the coronavirus pandemic, this includes remote community based working.

In terms of city-wide connectivity, there is much work in progress:

- York is part of a regional government funded programme that is targeting rural areas to help enable access to improved levels of broadband. As a result of this work, around 130 properties within Skelton can now access much improved broadband services which helps to address the previous imbalance within Skelton. The villages of Naburn and Deighton are next in line to benefit from the programme. The current delivery plan is indicating late Autumn and should provide access to improved levels of broadband services for approximately 300 properties. We are working with the provider to raise the awareness of the improved broadband service.
- A new fibre-based network at Elvington, funded through the Building Digital rural gigabit voucher scheme, is now live and taking orders from residents and businesses in the village. The first customers are now using the full fibre network, with installation slots filling up fast. In addition to this, Elvington Village Hall now has full access to the fibre broadband at no cost.
- Our city and town centres are traditionally seen as hard to reach places in terms of private sector investment initiatives due to the higher build costs and lower take up opportunities. However, with the help of funding through the Digital Enterprise programme, which offers eligible businesses up to £3k towards improved digital connectivity, network providers are looking to build upon their existing networks. Areas of expansion include both Gillygate and Hungate, both of which are still in planning stage and subject to street works.
- Cityfibre, Openreach and Virgin are all looking to expand their fibre networks over the next few years for both domestic and commercial properties which when realised will increase the access to ultrafast broadband services to above 80% coverage within York.
- With council financial inclusion funding provided to create a part time Digital York Partnership Network Co-ordinator at Explore York – work

has started to capture and identify gaps relating to all the work that is happening across the York to support digital inclusion. This will aid planning for a cohesive inclusive approach across the city, with some pilot work being developed in Acomb.

Human Resources

Support to the workforce continues as we adapt to new ways of working, but also as we support our employees during the cost-of-living crisis. The workforce is being provided with advice and signposting to national and local support.

The national pay award for council officers is yet to be agreed, but it is hoped that an agreement can be reached late October / early November for implementation in December. This does place a financial strain on the Council, as does the recent holiday pay ruling which we are reviewing the impact. The Council continues to recognise and award the Living Wage Foundation rate for its employees and this is impacting on the grade boundaries of the current pay structure so work has commenced on a review of the pay structure. There is also a review of terms and conditions generally across the Council and discussions with trade unions continue.

Staff absence levels have crept up to pre pandemic levels of 2019/2020. We continue to ensure that wellbeing support and good absence management is embedded into day-to-day management and that teams look out for each other. As winter pressures are likely to increase again this year, we need to ensure that our workforce are supported and promotion of the COVID vaccine and flu campaign have started.

Recruitment is challenging across traditionally hard to recruit posts, but also general posts at all levels and grades. This is not isolated to the Council as an employer, as this is being felt across all sectors nationally. We are working with innovative ways to recruit and retain quality employees at the same time aiming to streamline recruitment processes for the benefit of both applicants and managers. We are working on new employer branding as part of showcasing the terms and conditions, benefits and opportunities that working for the Council brings and the impact and reward that any Council post has on the community we serve.

The Working as One programme continues to progress well and staff working on a hybrid basis can come into the office based on service needs and individual needs. Good customer service remains at the forefront of how we shape our services and ways of working will not impact the service that our community receives. The Council's hybrid working offer has proven attractive to a wider net of applicants than those in the immediate employment market area which has assisted the recruitment challenges that we face.

Apprenticeships continue to be popular for new posts in services and to allow staff to upskill. The Council achieved the Public Sector Target for Apprenticeship starts in 2021/22 and although, this target is now removed, we are going to continue to strive to achieve this in coming years too.

Managers are key to supporting employees to deliver quality services and a refreshed managers' programme including practical management skills and softer skills is being created, this will be known as the York Managers Programme which is aimed at new managers and offers refresh of skills and master classes for other managers.

Operational Accommodation and Asset Management

We have agreed a number of new lettings at West Offices, with a number of deals completed and others in legal. Prior to Covid, we already leased space to Network Rail, Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, Ministry of Justice (Probation Service), Department of Health and Social Care. Income from these totalled around £1million per year. After Covid, we have completed new occupational leases to Atkins Limited and North Yorkshire LEP and have some further agreements being negotiated which, if these all come to fruition, will provide an additional income to the City Council of approximately £830,000 per year.

Our commercial portfolio continues to perform well with limited vacancies. All retail premises in the city centre are let or under offer which includes 2 recent deals at Shambles.

The former Oakhaven elderly persons home site has planning consent and hence we anticipate that the disposal to the purchaser will be completing this month.

We have completed work to refurbish 29 Castlegate on budget and a new tenant has moved in.

The Guildhall restaurant space is now under offer and in legal.

Integrated Health Partnership

Building on the implementation across Humber and North Yorkshire Integration Care system and development of the integrated Care Board in July 2022, the Local Authority and ICS alongside partners have formed a York health and care alliance committee. The membership consists of a wide range of partners, including Healthwatch, CVS, Primary care, Education and Acute health providers. The committee is currently finalising the priorities it will deliver over the next 12/18 months aligned to the Council Plan and HWBB strategy, particularly focusing on home first out of hospital care and reducing health inequalities across York.

There are a number of challenges across the system and the Chief Accountable Officer, the Director of Adult Social Care and Executive lead continue to work closely with ICB leads to ensure the population of York have access to the right social care and health services when they need it.

Levelling Up Fund Bids

In August, following executive approval, the council submitted bids for £20m of funding to revitalise the city centre, as part of three linked projects supported by partners and stakeholders. This includes £10m to deliver the new Castle and Eye of York public realm as part of the Castle Gateway regeneration, and a further £10m for Parliament Street and Coney Street and the Riverside Quarter developments.

In addition to this bid, the council submitted a transport bid to help enhance the Haxby Railway station project. The bid seeks to secure £5m to improve active travel links and accessibility to the new station for surrounding communities, beyond those already proposed in the project.

Despite being in the government's lowest priority areas for Levelling Up investment, the Council submitted a strong first round Levelling Up bid in

2021 to support the delivery of the three key city centre regeneration projects. Although this bid was unsuccessful, it received positive feedback from central government, with the submission scoring well across the three main assessment criteria; strategic fit; value for money; and deliverability.

Results of the competitive bidding process are expected to be announced later this autumn.

UK Shared Prosperity Funding

The Council has published the first Investment Plan for UK Shared Prosperity Fund, a new programme of government funding spread over three years on projects based on community and place, supporting local business and people and skills.

The Investment Plan reflects the city's priorities and is based on key local strategies, including My City Centre strategy, Cultural strategy and York Skills Plan, together with the emerging York Economic strategy, Health and Wellbeing strategy and Climate Change strategy.

As a part of the UKSPF, City of York Council was allocated £5.1m to spend over 3 years (until March 2025). An Investment Plan for how these funds would be allocated was developed based on the views of a Partnership Board, which includes representatives of public, private and community sector organisations and groups, local Members of Parliament, and other key stakeholders.

York's Investment Plan features the following investment priorities to be spent over the next 3 years:

£1.7m for Communities and Place, to support:

- investment Acomb Front Street and Haxby secondary shopping areas, improvements to city centre access.
- energy advice to help York's families to reduce their household costs during the cost of living crisis.
- volunteering activities, community organisations, arts and culture events.

£1.8m for Local Business Investment to deliver:

- advice and support for businesses and social enterprises, including through training hubs and incubators.
- assistance for businesses to decarbonise and support the creation on green jobs.
- support for small, micro and start-up businesses.

£1.6m for People and Skills to deliver:

- help for people out of work to get training and experience, including green skills.
- volunteering and work experience activities to helping people to overcome barriers to work.
- tackle digital exclusion.
- support the growth of green industries in the city.
- new training and skills development to help people retrain for the jobs of the future.

Local Plan

The Local Plan has now completed 11 weeks of public inquiry. In May, the first sessions this year focused on the strategic principals and evidence base, before moving on in July, the inquiry looked at every site allocation including large, small, and commercial allocation. Finally in September, this phase concluded by looking at detailed Green Belt Boundaries, the University, and policies.

The public inquiry has covered a great deal of detail included in the plan and as part of the process, we have heard from many different residents and organisations. I would like to thank all those residents, parish councils and local organisations who took part in the examination and indeed, our staff and the Inspector Team, who have helped maintain progress along the way.

Major Project Delivery

Whilst increased inflation and disruptions in the supply chain are continuing to impact the delivery of major projects, positive progress is being made to deliver transformational projects across the city. Please find below an update on some of these key projects.

York Outer Ring Road Dualling

A planning application to improve the city's outer ring road has been submitted by City of York Council.

The plans include significant improvements, with the aim to reduce congestion, move car journeys out of the city centre and improve active travel facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

The proposals feature upgrades along the York Outer Ring Road from the A19 Shipton Road to the A1036 Little Hopgrove and would see improvements to 6 sections of the northern York Outer Ring Road, including 5 roundabouts at:

- Clifton Moor
- Wigginton Road
- Haxby Road
- Strensall Road
- Monks Cross

If approved, these 5 roundabouts will be enlarged to a similar size and standard as the recently completed A1237/B1224 Wetherby Road roundabout, completed in 2019.

As part of the plans, existing single-carriageway roads will be widened to dual-carriageway roads in both directions to reduce congestion.

The proposals follow the public consultation that took place in 2020, which saw more pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities and routes added to the scheme. In improvements would see over 6km added to York's walking and cycling network.

The scheme also has an ecological landscape strategy, with a commitment to comprehensive landscaping, tree planting and enhancements to bio-diversity.

Subject to planning consent, construction work is anticipated to commence in mid-2023 for 2 years, with completion in 2025.

Castle Gateway

Castle Gateway is awaiting the decision by Government on our levelling up funding application, which if we are successful, will have requirements for spending timeframes which will need to be considered. As requested by Executive, further work is being undertaken on data analysis for car parking across the City and the Castle gateway project. Further detailed work is also being undertaken on Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measure placement and Blue badge parking, as the formal planning process proceeds.

Further work is being undertaken on the Castle Mills elements of the project concluding the contractual position with Wates and reviewing the latest design and delivery options, before a further report is brought back for Executive to consider next steps.

Council**20 October 2022****Report of the Chair of Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee**

It has been a busy few months for Scrutiny with over 30 public meetings having been delivered since my last report. It has also been a turbulent time with numerous factors disrupting the Scrutiny programme, including a number of last minutes changes to the calendar. I would like to pay tribute to the Democratic Services team who, despite significant pressure and an ongoing lack of dedicated time for supporting Scrutiny, have been tremendous in what they have been able to achieve on our behalf.

When I took over the Chair of CSMC in May 2019, one of the Council's Scrutiny Officers had recently left the authority and his post was vacant. The second - and last remaining dedicated Scrutiny Officer - left the authority in June 2020. Both full time equivalent posts were reallocated to aid delivery of the core programme of meetings. The then Monitoring Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Council Leader gave assurances about the opportunities presented by employing hybrid Scrutiny/Democracy Officers but in the intervening 28 months since Scrutiny last had dedicated Scrutiny Officer support, the reality has been little more than the administrative delivery of meetings and a feeling of diminishing ability for Committees to do their jobs.

For Scrutiny to function effectively it is crucial that Officers with appropriate skillsets are given adequate time, resource and support from colleagues to enable Chairs and Committee Members to deliver meaningful and constructive work programmes. Expecting Members or non-Scrutiny Officers from within equally stretched directorates to pick up the slack, collate information or act as independent researchers has proven unworkable: There have been next to no in-depth tasks and finishes or Scrutiny Reviews completed since 2019; too many reports have been thin or have relied upon on-the-day presentations to deliver key content; worse still, a number of meetings have had to be cancelled at late notice due to lack of reports being delivered or key individuals becoming unavailable.

The appointment of a new Monitoring Officer and the upcoming restructuring of Democratic Services present opportunities to address some of these issues – as do the opportunities for Member & Officer training currently being explored. I look forward to working with Bryn,

alongside the Statutory Scrutiny Officer, in putting Scrutiny back onto a stronger footing.

I have asked each Committee Chair to provide a brief overview of their work, as follows;

Cllr Doughty reports that **Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny** is keeping focus on the difficulties residents are experiencing in making GP surgery appointments and accessing NHS dentistry services. The Committee will be hearing from partners in Health and Care about how the new Integrated Care Service (and Integrated Care Board) will affect City of York Council as the transition of responsibilities, commissioning and service provision transfers from outgoing CCG's. They are also keeping watch over how Health Services continue to recover from the extra challenges brought by Covid, including updates on elective surgery.

The Committee has received reports and fed into the City's new dementia strategy and in conjunction with the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee will be looking at Council services that have cross-committee interest including the new autism strategy and healthy child services.

Cllr Fenton reports that the **Housing and Community Safety Policy & Scrutiny Committee** has held three formal meetings and one (informal) Forum meeting in recent months. In April the committee discussed the Safer York Partnership's bi-annual report, covering topics including counter-terror measures and the impact on communities of anti-social behaviour. Updates were also received on the Resettlement Pathway review and the implementation of the system to replace North Yorkshire HomeChoice. In July the committee discussed the council's housing retrofit plans and agreed the aims and objectives of a scrutiny review focused on developing resilient communities. Cllr Fenton reports that this review will, through necessity, be very much member-led and it is hoped that progress can be made on this in the coming months.

The committee met jointly with the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee to review and discuss the council's draft response to the Government call for evidence on short-term holiday lets, leading to a number of amendments to the council's response being proposed by members.

Looking ahead, the Committee's next meetings will focus on the current homelessness situation including winter night provision for rough sleepers, the council's Housing Allocations policy and the approach to

providing support for tenants in the context of the cost of living emergency.

Cllr Vassie reports that the **Climate Emergency Committee**, like several others, has experienced frustration in accessing a level of detail and scope within reports that matches their ambition. They have, however, been able to consider items ranging from Sustainable Transport, Carbon Emissions and the Council's Climate Strategy. The need for clearly understood and articulated target outcomes - against which progress can be monitored and maintained - being a common theme.

Looking ahead, the Committee will be considering the draft Local Area Energy plan, CYC corporate emissions/performance data, updates on the pollinator strategy – covering the alternative weed treatment trial, pesticides and mow/no mow plan and outcomes - Tree canopy targets, Climate Risk Resilience priorities for York and an update on progress in delivering of the Community Woodland.

The Chair reports a desire to widen input from stakeholders and, in particular, think about ways in which public participation could be better utilised within the format of meetings.

Cllr Daubeney reports that the Children, Education and Communities Scrutiny Committee have considered the Public Health school survey, reports on staff sickness absence rates within the directorate and have received annual/update reports from York Learning, the Skills and Employment Board, York Explore and GLL (Greenwich Leisure Ltd).

The Committee undertook a standalone review of actions following the 'Requires Improvement' Ofsted report into Children's Services and monitoring progress on this will be a key focus over the coming municipal year.

As well as keeping a close focus on finance and performance across the directorate, the Committee will also be looking at Safeguarding, meeting the new Chief Executive of York Museums Trust, considering behaviour and attendance at the city's schools, looking at the attainment gap and receiving updates on Community Hubs and Holiday Food provision.

At May's annual Council, Cllr Norman stood down from the Chair of Economy & Place and was replaced by Cllr K Taylor. I would like to record my thanks for Cllr Norman's input over the preceding year.

Cllr Taylor reports that since taking over, the **Economy & Place Policy & Scrutiny Committee** have considered update reports on carbon

reduction, Make It York and York Business Improvement District (YorkBID)'s Five Year Plan.

Looking ahead, they will be considering updates on the Bus Service Improvement Plan, Highway maintenance programme, Community Levy, Public Realm and the city's Purple Flag status. In addition, they will focus on the city's economic strategy and aims, as well as an upcoming standalone review of the Digital ResPark rollout.

The Customer & Corporate Services & Scrutiny Management

Committee has had a focus on Organisation Development within the Council, Finance & Performance Monitoring, Digital Inclusion and the Capital Programme. We have paid close attention to Customer Services – in particular, call answering - and staff well-being given the changes of the past two years. The Committee recently undertook a review of the 'minded to' Devolution Deal before it came to Full Council.

We have dealt with four Call-Ins so far this year, on subjects including the handling of an Osbaldwick Car Parking Petition, a decision to implement Double Yellow Lines on Tranby Avenue, the Council's HMO Strategy (following the unanimous vote at Full Council) and the decision to continue with Glyphosate Based products as the principal method of weed control. None of the decisions were overturned, though concessions were made regarding the Parking petition leading to an upcoming Scrutiny in which it is hoped progress can be made. It was erroneously reported in the press – and in some political literature – that the decision on continued pesticide use had been overturned. Whilst the Executive Member did make some clarifications on her position, the Committee upheld the original decision by majority vote.

Since the beginning of the year, CSMC has reduced the number of its own regular timetabled meetings in order to free up more space for Commissioned Slots. It is hoped that in doing so, there will be increased opportunity for a diversity of public scrutiny and a more equitable sharing of the workload amongst Scrutiny Members. Care has been given to ensure the non-Commissioned Scrutiny slots are evenly shared between the standing Committees in advance of the pre-election period as we approach May's elections but it is acknowledged that there is a mismatch between the number of identified topic areas and available agenda space for most committees.

I continue to hold regular meetings with the Statutory Scrutiny Officer, Monitoring Officer, Democracy Officer and Vice Chair of CSMC to make

best use of resources and assist Chairs in delivering an effective and constructive programme for Scrutiny.

Healthy democracies require robust checks and balances and this should not be feared. The ongoing challenges faced by Scrutiny will require careful thought and consideration over the coming months.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Licensing And Regulatory Committee
Date	4 October 2022
Present	Councillors Cuthbertson (Chair), Melly (Vice-Chair), D'Agorne, Galvin, Hook, Hunter, Looker, Mason, D Myers, Norman And Wells
Apologies	Councillors Orrell, Barker And Wann
In Attendance	Matt Boxall (Head of Public Protection) Sandra Branigan (Senior Solicitor) Lesley Cooke (Licensing Manager) David Cowley (Taxi Licensing Manager)

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

15. **New Hackney Carriage Licences - Referral to Council** **[17:38]**

Further to the decision of the Committee on 7 June 2022, and the Executive on 28 July 2022, Members were asked to refer to Council the decision to amend the council's Taxi Licensing Policy in respect of the *number* of hackney carriage licences issued. The Head of Public Protection clarified that the ten new licences issued did not change the total number of licences being issued as three licences had not been renewed. Members then unanimously:

Recommended: That Council approve the issuing of *ten* new hackney carriage vehicle licences (three that have not been renewed and seven additional licences), bringing the total number to 190.

Reason: To help meet unmet demand for hackney carriage vehicles, particularly from users with a disability, and coupled with the proposed specification for those newly licensed vehicles provide a more environmentally friendly and easily recognisable hackney carriage fleet in the city in response to the declared climate emergency and continuing desire to improve air quality.

Cllr Cuthbertson, Chair

[The meeting started 17:35 and finished at 18:07].

**Appointments and Changes to Membership of Committees,
Working Groups and Outside Bodies 2022-23**

A – Appointments to be approved by Council

Health & Wellbeing Board

To appoint Simon Bell to the Board as the representative for the Humber & North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, with Michelle Carrington and Stephanie Porter as his nominated substitutes.

B – Appointments approved by Staffing Matters & Urgency Committee, reported to Council in accordance with Article 11 of the Constitution (paragraph 5.1)

On 20 June 2022:

Climate Emergency Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Myers appointed in place of Cllr Heaton.

Economy & Place Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Cllr D Taylor appointed.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority – Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Melly appointed as a substitute.

Corporate Appeals Committee

Cllr Looker appointed in place of Cllr Myers.

On 15 August 2022:

Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Heaton appointed as a substitute.

Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Myers appointed as a substitute.

Climate Emergency Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Norman appointed as a substitute.

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Karen Vincent of All Saints Roman Catholic School appointed in place of Kate Bailey.

Health and Wellbeing Board

Martin Kelly Corporate Director of Children's and Education, City of York Council appointed to the Board.

Zoe Campbell, Managing Director (North Yorkshire, York and Selby); Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust appointed to the Board, with Amanda Hazelwood, Care Group Director (North Yorkshire, York and Selby) Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust as her nominated substitute.