



**Notice of public meeting of  
Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

- To:** Councillors Gunnell (Chair), Richardson (Vice-Chair),  
Funnell, Kramm, K Myers, Mason and Orrell
- Date:** Tuesday, 22 September 2015
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

**AGENDA**

**1. Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare:

- Any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- Any prejudicial interests or
- Any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on the agenda.

**2. Minutes**

(Pages 1 - 8)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the  
Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of  
27 July 2015.

### **3. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to under the Council's Public Participation Scheme may do so. The deadline for registering is **5.00pm on Monday 21 September 2015**.

Members of the public may register to speak on:

- An item on the agenda
- An issue within the remit of the Committee

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### **4. Attendance of Executive Member Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods**

Councillor Carr, as Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods, has been invited to attend for this item to outline his priorities for the year.

### **5. 2014/15 Finance and Performance Outturn (Pages 9 - 14) Report**

This report provides details of the 2014/15 outturn position for both finance and performance across services within City and Environmental Services and Communities and Neighbourhoods.

- 6. 2015/16 Finance and Performance First Quarter Monitoring Report** (Pages 15 - 18)  
This report provides details of the 2015/16 forecast outturn position for both finance and performance across services within City and Environmental Services and Communities and Neighbourhoods.
- 7. Update on the Work of AVANTE (Alcohol, Violence and Night-time Economy)** (Pages 19 - 22)  
This is the annual report on the work of AVANTE (Alcohol, Violence and Night-time Economy).
- 8. Scrutiny Topic Proposals - Feasibility Report** (Pages 23 - 36)  
This report provides detailed information in support of two topics proposed for scrutiny review by this committee, and asks Members to decide whether or not they should proceed to scrutiny review.
- 9. Update on Implementation of Recommendations from Previously Completed Domestic Waste and Recycling Scrutiny Review** (Pages 37 - 42)  
This report provides Members with their first update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the previously completed Domestic Waste and Recycling scrutiny review, and asks Members to sign off any recommendations now considered to be fully implemented.
- 10. Workplan 2015-2016** (Pages 43 - 44)  
Members are asked to give consideration to the committee's work plan for 2015-2016.
- 11. Urgent Business**  
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Name: Jayne Carr

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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.

**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 własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

 **(01904) 551550**

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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Meeting	Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	27 July 2015
Present	Councillors Gunnell (Chair), Richardson (Vice-Chair), Funnell, K Myers, Mason, Orrell and D'Agorne (Substitute for Councillor Kramm)
Apologies	Councillor Kramm
In attendance	Councillor Aspden Councillor Waller

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## **8. Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that they might have in respect of the business on the agenda.

Councillor Richardson declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 (minute 11 refers) because, as the Conservative spokesperson on the Environment, he met periodically with the Executive Member.

## **9. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **10. Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

## **11. Attendance of Executive Member for Environment**

The Executive Member for Environment outlined his priorities for the year. He went through the key issues outlined in his written

report to the Committee and gave details of work to tackle the following issues:

- Increasing recycling and reducing waste
- Pride in York, and local environmental decision making
- Flooding and surface water drainage
- One Planet York and Carbon Management

Members questioned the Executive Member on the proposed projects and requested that the following be taken into account:

- Improved communication with residents as to what happens with recyclates
- Exploring the possibility of using vehicles which run on bio gas when considering the purchase of new vehicles.
- Measures, including enforcement processes, to tackle the problems caused by commercial businesses disposing of waste materials into the drains.
- Green waste collections in areas of the city not currently offered this service.
- Measures to encourage landlords of commercial properties to tackle issues such as graffiti and overfilled waste bins.
- Consideration as to the provision in place in the city centre for recycling.
- Consideration as to how CYC commercial waste services could be made more competitive.
- Ensuring that mechanisms for residents to report issues such as graffiti, including by mobile devices, were effective.
- A request for information to be provided regarding the weir at Naburn<sup>1</sup>.

The Executive Member stated that he was keen that annual targets were set for specific projects and that these targets were measurable.

Members noted that the Committee had previously carried out a review on domestic waste and recycling and it was agreed that an update on the implementation of their recommendations would be presented at the next meeting.

The Executive Member was asked if he had suggestions as to how the Committee could support the work that was taking place. He stated that he would welcome Members' suggestions as to how best the policies could be applied to the communities

they represented, as he was keen to ensure that a more localised approach was taken to enable services to be delivered in a way which best met the needs of residents.

The Executive Member was thanked for his written report and for his attendance at the meeting.

## **12. Safer York Partnership Bi-Annual Report**

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the work of the Safer York Partnership.

Members' attention was drawn to the year end data for 2014/15 which showed that total crime in York was 5% lower than in 2013/14 and that there had been an improvement in York's position when compared to similar local authorities.

Officers gave details of some of the strategies that were in place to tackle issues including anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related disorder. Members requested a copy of the action plan in respect of Operation Erase (Saturday alcohol-related disorder).<sup>1</sup>

At the request of Members, officers detailed the respective roles of the PCSOs and Council officers who had Community Safety Accreditation Scheme powers.

Officers were asked why data on crimes such as sexual assaults, child exploitation or cyber crime had not been included in the report. They stated that the report detailed the year-end performance against the Community Safety Plan. The Plan had now been refreshed and did now include crimes such as child sexual exploitation and hence future reports would include statistics on this type of crime.

Members requested that the following additional information be provided in future Safer York Partnership bi-annual reports<sup>1</sup>:

- More contextual information, for example drug-related crime, as well as output data to be provided in future reports
- Data on crimes not currently included in the update reports including child sexual exploitation, other sexual offences and cybercrime

- Comparative data on numbers of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions (re paragraph 6.3 of the report)

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To ensure Members are kept updated on performance against the Community Safety Plan.

Action Required

1. Arrange for requested information to be provided JM

**13. Update on Domestic Abuse**

Members considered a report which provided an update on work to tackle domestic abuse in York.

Members questioned officers as to the arrangements that were in place to ensure that the statistics did not under represent the situation, as not all incidents were reported to the Police. Officers confirmed that work was ongoing to refine the data and to provide more contextual information. Members suggested that charities such as Survive would have data that could enhance the statistics available from other sources.

Members welcomed the work that was taking place to tackle the issue of domestic abuse and were pleased to note that the issue was being taken seriously.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To provide an update on the work being carried out to tackle domestic violence.

**14. Listening to Residents: Ward Committees**

Members considered a paper which presented a report which was due to be considered by the Executive on 30 July 2015. It set out a new approach to community engagement, through working with local neighbourhoods, and the establishment of revised ward committees.



The Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement was in attendance and went through the key issues in the report.

Members were asked to comment on:

- The new approach to community engagement
- The allocation of increased funding to these ward committees
- The production of ward fact sheets in order to support ward councillors and explain the process to residents
- The production of a range of local service choices giving options for how the ward committee funding pot could support local communities
- The options set out in paragraph 8 of the report to the Executive for the constitution of ward committees

Members' comments on the proposed arrangements included:

- Whilst generally welcoming a more localised approach and the devolving of more funding to local communities, some reservations were expressed regarding the challenges that the new arrangements would present. These would include ensuring that local people had an input and addressing the complexities that would arise because wards were likely to have different service requirements. Members also commented on the need to manage residents' expectations regarding the funding that would be made available, particularly in view of the challenges to the Council's budget. It was also important that the new arrangements did not detract from integrated working or strategic planning.
- There was a need to ensure that there were sufficient local facilitators and that the ward committees were appropriately supported. There were already significant demands on officers.
- In respect of the options as to how ward committees could be established within the Council's Constitution, the general view was that, initially, they should remain informally constituted, relying on the delegated authority of the relevant chief officer to implement the wishes of the committee (subject to Council policy and procedures), for example in its spending decisions. This option (Option B in the report) acknowledged that the new arrangements would need to evolve over time and recognised that a number of ward members were new to the role.

- Some concerns were expressed regarding the timescale of the implementation of the new arrangements and it was acknowledged that this may necessitate the carry forward of some funding. The Executive Member confirmed that there would be the option for ward committees to budget for larger projects by carrying funding forward.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the use of Section 106 funding and requests were made for local members to be more involved in decisions as to how this funding was used.
- Members found the ward team meetings to be very useful.
- There was a need to ensure that the Community Care Fund was targeted effectively.

The Executive Member was thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

Resolved: That the committee's comments be noted.

Reason: In order to support the Council's commitment to working with local communities and devolving power and budgets to residents.

## 15. **Work Plan**

Consideration was given to the committee's work plan for 2015/16.

Members requested that the following items be included on the work plan:

- Update on the implementation of the recommendations of the scrutiny review into domestic waste and recycling. (To be considered at the next meeting as per minute 11)
- Regular updates on the implementation of the revised ward committee arrangements.

Members also gave further consideration to proposed scrutiny topics.

Resolved: (i) That feasibility reports on the following topics be considered at the next meeting:

- Geese
- The impact of Hen and Stag parties on the city

- (ii) That, subject to the inclusion of the above agenda items, the work plan be approved.

Reason: To ensure that the committee has a planned programme of work in place.

Councillor Gunnell, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 8.15 pm].

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## Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015

### Report of the Interim Director of City & Environmental Services and the Director for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

#### 2014/15 Finance and Performance Outturn Report

##### Summary

1. This report provides details of the 2014/15 outturn position for both finance and performance across services within City & Environmental Services and Communities and Neighbourhoods.

##### Analysis

##### Finance – General Fund

2. The services that relate to the Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee cross two directorates (City and Environmental Services and Communities and Neighbourhoods). Service Plan variations which relate to services within this scrutiny are shown below:

	Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
<b>City &amp; Environmental Services</b>			
Waste	8,688	9,261	+573
<b>Communities and Neighbourhoods</b>			
Housing General Fund	2,655	2,703	+48
Public Protection	334	83	-251
Community Safety	440	405	-35
Smarter York	2,879	2,707	-172
Community Centres	55	27	-28
Communities and Equalities – Neighbourhood Management	1,286	1,266	-20

Note: '+' indicates an increase in expenditure or shortfall in income  
 '-' indicates a reduction in expenditure or increase in income

3. Details of the main variations by service plan are detailed in the following paragraphs.

Waste (+£573k)

4. Within waste collection the main variances were £216k additional staffing costs including £28k additional superannuation and £181k for temporary staff. There were increased transport costs of £98k for vehicle repairs/hire and £84k for new vehicle costs. These overspends were offset by £34k saving on fuel due to lower prices.
5. There was an underspend on waste disposal mainly from reduced tonnages (£188k) and additional income from the sale of landfill gas (£108k). These underspends were offset by a shortfall in income from garden waste subscriptions (£60k).
6. There was an overspend on Household Waste and Recycling Centres (£203k) mainly due to lower than anticipated trade waste income and income from Household Waste chargeable items.
7. There continues to be a shortfall on the Yorwaste dividend (£200k) but this was partly offset by interest received from the company on an outstanding loan (£56k).
8. There was a small net overspend on commercial waste (£42k) which is an improvement on the previous years position.

Housing General Fund (-£48k)

9. Additional expenditure at Traveller Sites (£86k) was offset by other savings within Housing Services (£38k)

Public Protection (-£251k)

10. There was an underspend in Bereavement Services due to additional income and reduced energy costs (£131k) and additional income at the Registry Office (£41k).
11. There was a staffing saving of £84k in Environmental Health & Trading Standards and other minor variances in Licensing of £5k resulting in an overall underspend in Public Protection of £251k.

Community Safety (-£35k)

12. A number of minor operational savings resulted in an underspend of £35k.

Smarter York (-£172k)

13. There was an overall underspend across the Smarter York function of £172k due to £80k saving arising from a freeze on unnecessary expenditure and £92k staff saving resulting from the early delivery of 2015/16 savings.

Community Centres (-£28k)

14. There was £28k saving in Community Centre budgets as management responsibilities transferred to the local community.

Finance – Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

15. The HRA budgeted to make a surplus of £567k in 2014/15. There was an overspend of £513k on repairs and maintenance mainly due to resolving significant damp works at a number of properties. This was offset by a number of underspends, including £954k from a change to the financing of capital works and £273k from lower than budgeted levels of arrears and bad debts. This resulted in an overall surplus of £1,908k which was £1,341k better than the budget.

**Performance**

16. This report gives an overview of the Council's performance covering 1st January to 31 March 2015, as well as looking back at events in the year.
17. Achievement: The net number of additional homes provided increased to 523 in 2014/14 from 345 in 2013/14. Construction of a further 655 homes at Germany Beck moved a step closer after the Appeal Court denied further appeals to block development.
18. Achievement: The Council has been awarded the Excellent Level of the Equality Framework for Local Government. Positive findings included members engaging directly with communities on equality and fairness issues and that the Council and employees have clear understanding of their role in the equalities agenda.

However, more needs to be done. An action plan to address the issues identified in the review is being developed. It is intended that this will be approved by the responsible Executive Member in September. Work is also underway through the Fairness and Equalities Board on a city-wide plan for equalities which will be launched later this year.

19. Challenge: The average number of days taken to remove obscene graffiti has increased to nearly 1.34 in Quarter 4 from 0.69 in 2013/14. Investment of £25k in additional city wide cleaning has been identified in the emergency budget.
20. Achievement: A contract to build a new waste treatment facility was signed with AmeyCespa in November 2014. Construction will take 36 months and the facility should be operational in 2018, producing enough electricity to power 40,000 homes.
21. Achievement: A contract was also signed with a consortium, known locally as Better Homes York, to implement and promote the Green Deal. To launch the scheme in York, 80 Green Deal Communities Fund Vouchers will be offered which will help with the costs of installing green measures in homes.
22. Challenge: The total cost of Landfill Tax for Household and Commercial waste increased to just under £4.2m (from £3.8m in 2013/14).
23. Challenge: Whilst performance on waste recycled and composted has improved slightly in 2014/15 to 44.11%, performance has not improved significantly and remains below best performance in 2011/12 (46.41%). The Council will carry out research on how promotional work has influenced the quality of material collected in waste services. The city centre kerbside recycling service is being reviewed to identify barriers impacting participation. There is also a renewed focus on this issue in the draft Council Plan and emergency budget.

### **Implications**

24. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.



### **Risk Management**

25. The report provides members with updates on finance and service performance and therefore there are no significant risks in the content of the report.

### **Recommendations**

26. As this report is for information only, there are no recommendations.

Reason: To update the scrutiny committee of the latest finance and performance position.

#### **Author:**

**Patrick Looker**  
**Finance Manager**  
Tel: 551633

**Ian Cunningham**  
Group Manager – Shared  
Intelligence Bureau  
Tel: 555749

#### **Chief Officers responsible for the report:**

Neil Ferris  
Interim Director of City and Environmental  
Services

Sally Burns  
Director of Communities and  
Neighbourhoods

**Report  
Approved**



**Date 14 September  
2015**

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## Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee

22 September 2015

### Report of the Interim Director of City & Environmental Services and Director for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

#### 2015/16 Finance & Performance Monitor 1 Report

##### Summary

1. This report provides details of the 2015/16 forecast outturn position for both finance and performance across services within City & Environmental Services and Communities and Neighbourhoods.

##### Analysis

##### Finance – General Fund

2. The services that relate to the Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee cross two directorates (City and Environmental Services and Communities and Neighbourhoods). Service Plan variations which relate to services within this scrutiny are shown below:

	Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
<b>City &amp; Environmental Services</b>			
Waste	8,490	8,639	+149
<b>Communities and Neighbourhoods</b>			
Housing General Fund	2,099	2,076	-23
Public Protection	-1,014	-1,036	-22
Community Safety	894	893	-1
Smarter York	2,489	2,489	0
Community Centres	70	70	0
Communities and Equalities – Neighbourhood Management	1,372	1,372	0

Note: '+' indicates an increase in expenditure or shortfall in income  
 '-' indicates a reduction in expenditure or increase in income

3. Details of the main variations by service plan are detailed in the following paragraphs.

Waste (+£149k)

4. There is a forecast overspend of £149k due to the forecast shortfall in dividend from Yorwaste due to the company facing difficult trading conditions and £200k due to unachieved income targets from charges at the Household Waste Recycling Centre. In addition there are forecast savings in waste disposal from lower tonnages (£100k) and additional income from landfill gas (£100k).

Housing General Fund (-£23k)

5. There is a forecast £23k underspend across Housing Services primarily due to staffing vacancies.

Public Protection (-£22k)

6. Additional income from bereavement services (£40k) is partially offset by a £16k expected shortfall in licensing income.

Finance - Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

7. The Housing Revenue Account is budgeted to make an in year surplus of £2.6m. A review of the budgets in the area shows that, overall, the account is expected to outturn on budget and there are no significant pressures to report at this time. The working balance of £14m at 31/3/15 will therefore increase to £16.6m by 31/3/16 in line with the HRA business plan.
8. Work is currently in progress to update the HRA business plan following the recent government announcements to require councils to sell their high value properties when they become vacant and to reduce social housing rents by 1% per year for the next four years. While the full extent of the impact of these changes is not yet known, the HRA will be required to make significant efficiencies in order to mitigate the reduction in income without reducing the HRA balance below prudent and sustainable levels.
9. To give some idea of the scale of these changes and their impact on the HRA, the requirement to reduce housing rents by 1% could potentially reduce income by up to £12m over a 4 year period. This is because the business plan assumed annual rent increases of

approximately 3% pa. The requirement for a 1% reduction therefore results in a swing of some 4%.

### **Performance**

10. 427 missed bins were reported between April and June with 58% put right by the end of the next working day. Although the number of missed bins has halved compared to the same period in 2014/15, the percentage put right within timescale has also fallen. In Q1 2014/15 there were 858 missed bins with 73% put right by the end of the next working day.
11. The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation increased to 71 at the end of Quarter 1 from 65 at the end of 2014/15. Positive action prevented homelessness for 191 households in the quarter, an improvement compared to 179 during the same period last year.
12. There were 2,986 reported crimes in Q1 2015/16 which is 245 higher than during the same quarter in 2014/15. Anti Social Behaviour call for service recorded by North Yorkshire Police remained consistent with levels seen in Q1 2014/15 at 2,454.
13. 61 reports of graffiti were made between April and June 2015 (up from 47 in the same period last year) with obscene graffiti taking an average of 0.7 days to remove (around half the average for 2014/15). However, non obscene graffiti took an average of 2.8 days to remove, a drop in performance compared to 2014/15.

### **Implications**

14. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.

### **Risk Management**

15. The report provides Members with updates on finance and service performance and therefore there are no significant risks in the content of the report.

### **Recommendations**

16. As this report is for information only, there are no recommendations.

Reason: To update the scrutiny committee of the latest finance and performance position.

**Author:**

**Patrick Looker**  
**Finance Manager**  
Tel: 551633

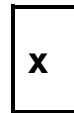
**Ian Cunningham**  
Group Manager – Shared  
Intelligence Bureau  
Tel: 555749

**Chief Officers responsible for the report:**

Neil Ferris  
Interim Director of City and Environmental  
Services

Sally Burns  
Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 14 September  
2015



## Report to the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Update on the work of the Safer York Partnership Alcohol, Violence & Night Time Economy (AVANTE) Task Group 22 September 2015

#### Summary

1. This is the annual report of the work of the AVANTE Task Group. AVANTE is one of a number of multi-agency thematic problem-solving groups that form part of the Safer York Partnership delivery structure.

#### Background

2. This is the third annual update on the work of the AVANTE Task Group which was established in 2013.
3. Membership of the group consists of representatives from: City of York Council, North Yorkshire Police, University of York, University of York St. John, Lifeline, Street Angels and Pub Watch

#### Work Update

The following are the main initiatives discussed by the AVANTE group:

**Alcohol Diversion Programme.** This programme has now been running for over 12 months. As of July 2015, 130 referrals had been received. There has been no record of reoffending. Work is currently ongoing to source funding to continue this valuable programme.

**Operation Safari.** North Yorkshire Police continue this operation to tackle violence and theft in the night time economy.

**Operation Erase.** Much focus has been given to this area of work and a separate sub-group has been formed. A more detailed report has been produced, setting out work undertaken to date.

**Alcohol Restriction Zone.** In addition to the existing ARZ, a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is being developed for the Groves area of the city to combat issues relating to street drinking. (PSPO's now replace ARZ's within the new ASB Tools and Powers legislation).

**River Safety.** A dedicated River Safety sub group with its own action plan was established in 2014 and continues to meet on a quarterly basis. Much capital improvement work has been undertaken to improve river safety and both universities have worked to promote river safety messages amongst students. A River Safety Guide for schools was produced, including links to resources available to promote this message. We are currently working towards adopting the Water Incident Database which will allow for more accurate multi-agency recording of river-related incidents and assist in planning future safety measures.

**Pub Watch.** Pub Watch is currently seeking to increase its membership and to adopt a new electronic intelligence sharing intranet system.

**Nightsafe Scheme.** The very successful Nightsafe scheme continues to operate. Working in a similar way to the Street Angels this scheme provides a pool of student volunteers who are deployed in the city centre on student nights and can assist in caring for those under the influence of alcohol and get individuals home safely. The Nightsafe scheme will be deployed during Freshers week.

**Responsible Authorities under the Licensing Act 2003.** Work has been undertaken to provide training to all the above organisations, including Public Health and Children's Safeguarding. This now means that all responsible authority representatives are aware of their responsibilities under the Licensing Act and can respond to Licensing applications in an informed way, giving a more robust response from a variety of partners.

**New Psychoactive Substances ('Legal Highs').** A multi-agency sub group has been established to share information on the type and breadth of usage of NPS across the city and also where it may be being sold. To date, it does not appear that this is a problem in York, although there are pockets of usage amongst certain groups including the homeless community. The New Psychoactive Substances Bill is currently progressing through Parliament.



**Sex Establishment Venue Licensing Policy**

Consultation with the public on the above ended on the 5<sup>th</sup> August. Work will now be ongoing to draft a policy for York. The policy will set restrictions on number and locality of premises and will also ensure that any such venues operate safely in terms of their staff and customers by setting clear operating guidelines.

**Street Angels**

The Street Angels continue to provide an excellent support in the Night Time Economy.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

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e: [tanya.lyon@york.gov.uk](mailto:tanya.lyon@york.gov.uk).

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes:** None

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**Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

22 September 2015

**Scrutiny Topic Proposals - Feasibility Report****Summary**

1. This report provides detailed information in support of two topics proposed for scrutiny review by this Committee, and asks Members to decide whether or not they should proceed to scrutiny review.

**Background**

2. In June 2015, this Committee considered its annual workplan and identified a number of possible topics for further consideration. It was noted that some aspects of the proposed topics may have been considered as part of previous reviews carried out by the committee and for this reason it was agreed that Members would first receive copies of the final reports arising from all previous reviews completed over the last two years.
3. In July 2015, the Committee narrowed down their list of topic proposals to 'Goose Management' & 'Stag & Hen Parties', and requested an overview paper for each.

**Consultation Feedback on Possible Scrutiny Review Topics**

4. Goose Management  
The presence of large numbers of wild geese in the centre of York creates a number of operational and safety problems, these include large amounts of droppings in paved areas, parks and gardens making these sites unwelcoming and unusable; damage to vegetation through grazing, and intimidation of children and other animals. Public opinion is divided as to whether these issues are significant or not.
5. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces has provided a briefing note on the Council's management of the city's goose population together with a summary of the Council's previous decisions taken in response to complaints and its treatment of goose eggs since 2000 – see Annex A.

6. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces will be in attendance at this meeting to answer any questions arising and to assist members in their consideration of this topic proposal.
7. Stag & Hen Parties  
The issues arising from Stag and Hen parties falls within the remit of the AVANTE Group (Alcohol Violence and Night Time Economy) which is made up of representatives from the Council, North Yorkshire Police (NYP), British Transport Police (BTP), Public Health, Pub Watch, the Universities, etc. This Committee has been provided with a separate update on the work of AVANTE, shown elsewhere on this agenda.
8. Through its work AVANTE has identified a number of issues on a Saturday during the day in the city centre and at the train station. These issues do not relate solely to Stag and Hen parties, but people who visit the city for the day to consume alcohol.
9. In response, NYP and BTP have for some time been carrying out an operation on a Saturday 'Operation Erase' to try and deal with some of these issues, and this Committee receives bi-annual updates from the Safer York Partnership detailing that work. Furthermore, a sub group of AVANTE members, including train operators and Make It York, has been formed to look at how to tackle the growing issues on a Saturday.
10. The Head of Community Safety has provided a detailed update on the work of the sub-group for Members consideration – see Annex B, and will be in attendance at this meeting to answer any questions arising.

### **Council Plan**

11. Both scrutiny topics support the Council's priority to focus on frontline services, ensuring residents are protected and safe from harm.

### **Recommendations**

12. Having considered the information provided in support of the two proposed scrutiny topics – 'Goose Management' and 'Stag & Hen Parties', Members are recommended to:
  - i. Note the information provided by the Head of Parks & Open Spaces and the Head of Community Safety.

- ii. Agree whether the Goose Management topic is suitable for scrutiny review.
  - iii. Agree whether in light of the ongoing partnership work to tackle alcohol related issues in the city on a Saturday, a review of Stag & Hen parties would be beneficial at this stage, or whether it would be more productive to defer the review until the new code of conduct has been in place for 6/12 months in order to assess its effectiveness.
13. If a decision is taken to proceed with either or both of the topic proposals, Members are recommended to:
- iii. Identify a suitable remit for the review(s), which include a number of clear objectives
  - iv. Agree a suitable timeframe for completion of the review(s)
  - v. Set up a Task Group(s) to carry out the review(s) on behalf of the full Committee.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Dawn Steel  
Democratic Services Manager

**Report Approved**  **Date** 11 September 2015

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all* **All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

**Background Papers:** N/A

**Annexes:**

**Annex A** – Briefing Note on Goose Management

**Annex B** – Detailed Update on AVANTE’s Response to Alcohol Related Issues in York on a Saturday

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## **Goose Management**

There are two main species of geese found in York – Greylag and Canada. There are also a small number of Barnacle geese to be found at the University, and very occasionally elsewhere, and a resident population of domestic farm geese to be found, in the main, at Castle Mills.

### Sites

Geese can usually be found at Rowntree Park, in and along the River Ouse between Scarborough Bridge and Rowntree Park (including War Memorial Gardens, Kings Staith, Tower Gardens and Eye of York), River Foss between Yearsley Bridge and Foss Basin, Hull Road Park, Chapman's Pond, Hogg's Pond, Rawcliffe Lake, University of York campus, Wigginton Pond, other remote ponds and lakes in York.

### The Law

The geese, like all wild birds in Britain, are protected under the EC Wild Birds Directive implemented in Great Britain through the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended. This Act makes it an offence to capture, kill or injure birds, or to damage or take their nests or eggs. There are exceptions, the most important of which relate to the open (hunting) season (between September 1st and January 31<sup>st</sup>) and to actions licensed under Section 16 of the Act.

### Previous Council Consideration

- Leisure Services Committee 10<sup>th</sup> October 1996 – reported problems in Rowntree Park – agree that signs should be installed asking the public not to feed the geese.
- Leisure Services Committee 11<sup>th</sup> November 1999 – petition received seeking the removal of the geese from Rowntree Park, report requested on possible measures
- Leisure Services Committee 9<sup>th</sup> December 1999 – specific report on the management of waterfowl, cull and egg treatment approved subject to licences
- Leisure Services Committee 16<sup>th</sup> March 2000 – reported on counter petition

Licences

Following the decision of the Leisure Services Committee in December 1999, licences have been sought annually to treat the eggs of birds at Council owned sites. Since 2005 a specific annual licence is now only required for Greylag geese

Eggs treated per year:

Year	Greylag	Canada	Total
2000		26	26
2001			88
2002	18	47	65
2003			0
2004	15	79	94
2005	49	134	183
2006	54	61	115
2007	37	171	208
2008	30	164	194
2009	29	195	224
2010	23	107	130
2011	41	163	204
2012	21	154	175
2013	22	187	209
2014			

*Notes in support of the table above:*

*2001 - Data not recorded by species*

*2003 - Licence application missed due to change in process*

*2005 - Inclusion of more nesting sites.*

*2010 – Late issue of contract / early hatching ?*

*2014 – No licence for greylags – missed renewal dates*

If a general licence (licence GL05) is obtained from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) a land owner or other authorised person can catch alive or kill, as well as take, damage or destroy the nests, or take or destroy the eggs of certain birds. This licence can only be used to preserve public health or public safety. It cannot be used to cull birds



because they are damaging your property, such as your car or house, or if they're a nuisance.

A cull of problem geese should take place shortly after they have moulted their main wing feathers, as they are unable to fly for 3 to 4 weeks. This usually occurs between the end of May and the end of June.

In December 1999 the Leisure Services Committee agreed to a cull being undertaken. A licence was obtained but the cull was never carried out.

#### Alternative Non Lethal Methods

At various times a number of alternative methods have been looked at e.g. fencing of nest sites, visual and acoustic scares, dead decoys, sheep dogs, chemical repellents, relocation, lion dung, increased sweeping, increased shrub and tree planting. One measure that was introduced (with negligible effect) was to fence the islands within Rowntree Park (in 2001); the geese have on occasions still nested there.

#### Monitoring

City of York Council monitors Geese numbers and the view is that they are currently static with approximately 250 geese in the city centre, with possibly a similar number in more suburban / rural locations. Sample data:

31 <sup>st</sup> May 2007 City Centre locations	109 Greylag adults and 31 young 77 Canada adults and 30 young
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Local members of the Royal Ornithological Society have undertaken a bird-ringing programme in York including geese numbers. Various reports are available. Central Science Laboratory have also studied geese movements in the Greater York area.

A small but regular number of complaints are received at the office each year about geese as well as letters appearing in the York Press. The Green Flag judges often comment on the problems caused by geese in Rowntree Park as one of the few negative aspects of the park.

NBM report

Dave Meigh Head of Parks and Open Spaces June 2014

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**Update on partnership work to tackle  
Saturday daytime alcohol-related anti-social behaviour  
(Operation Erase).**

### **Background**

1. For over two years, Safer York Partnership has focussed partnership work around this issue. Initially a time-limited Operation Erase sub-group of the AVANTE (Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy) task group was convened in January 2013 for 12 months after which time its work plan had been completed and the subject was transferred back onto the main action plan for the AVANTE Task Group.
2. In April 2015, the AVANTE group identified that Saturday day-time disorder was continuing despite ongoing efforts from Safer York Partnership, North Yorkshire Police and British Transport Police.
3. It was therefore decided to reconvene the Operation Erase sub-group with revised membership, in order to provide renewed focus on this issue by a range of partners.

### **Operation Erase Multi-agency Task Group**

4. The first meeting of the new task group was held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and was chaired by Superintendent Phil Cain, North Yorkshire Police.
5. Membership of the revised group consists of: City of York Council, North Yorkshire Police, Safer York Partnership, British Transport Police, York Pub Watch, Train Operating Companies (Virgin Trains East Coast, Grand Central, First group), Make It York and York BID. Virgin Trains East Coast is also currently the York Railway Station operator. Consequently, a representative from York Racecourse was invited to and has attended future meetings.
6. The purpose of the inaugural meeting of the group was to scope the problem and to identify a joint way forward which would be translated into a new multi-agency action plan.
7. As part of this 'scoping' exercise it was agreed that a separate consultation event should be held with York Licensees, in order to discuss their perceptions of the problem and suggestions for

improvement. This event took place at York Racecourse on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, with over 100 licensees in attendance.

### **A New Approach**

8. The group recognised that although previous efforts had been made to tackle this issue, a new harder hitting approach was now necessary, with all partners standing together to reinforce this message. As a number of NYP/BTP Saturday Days of Action had been planned, commencing on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September, it was agreed that this should be the launch date.

### **Actions to Date**

9. The following actions have and are being implemented for Saturday Days of Action on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015:
  - A new hard-hitting media campaign, entitled 'Had Enough? – We have Too'. Artwork has been designed (see Appendix 1) to be used on posters, flyers and websites. A joint meeting has been held with Marketing/Communications officers from NYP, CYC and BTP to ensure there is a consistent and effective approach from partners to promoting this message.
  - A Code of Conduct has been developed (see Appendix 2) to be distributed to those travelling into York by train. York licensees have further adapted this to develop their own Code relating to the standard of behaviour they expect on their premises.
  - A temporary barrier (Saturdays and Bank Holidays) is deployed at the railway station to deter fare avoidance/revenue enforcement and to provide an opportunity for engagement with travellers to reinforce key messages. Large banners of the 'Had Enough' campaign are displayed and literature distributed.
  - Regular alcohol-free 'Dry Trains' deployed on Saturdays, as resources allow.
  - High visibility patrolling presence through additional resources deployed by North Yorkshire Police and British Transport Police and joint patrols by NYP PCSO's and CYC Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers.

- Joint premises checks undertaken by CYC & NYP Licensing officers.

**Response/results to Date:**

10. To date, a positive response to the new approach has been received from members of the public and licensees. £4k revenue was taken from the ticket barrier deployed 11am – 3pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Police activity has included a low number of alcohol-related arrests.

**Forward Plan**

11. Focus on this issue will be maintained going forward The Operation Erase multi-agency task group will continue to meet and will review all action taken to date. Progress reports will be provided to the wider AVANTE Task Group and Safer York Partnership Board.

**Update Provided by:**

Tanya Lyon  
Community Safety Manager

Appendix 1



Had enough?

**We have too!**

Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated in York or on the railway.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY.



Had enough?

**We have too!**

Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated in York or on the railway.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY.



## Appendix 2



York is one of the safest cities in the country. We will not allow the behaviour of a minority of visitors to change this or to ruin the enjoyment of others. Anti-social behaviour **will not be tolerated** on the train or the station, in the street or in licensed premises.

Enforcement action can be taken against those who commit the following types of disorderly behaviour:

- Rowdy behaviour likely to distress others
- Foul or abusive language
- Urinating in the street
- Carrying inappropriate or offensive inflatables
- Taking pre-purchased alcohol into pubs and bars.

The above offences may lead to you :

- Being ordered to leave a venue or the city
- Being refused travel on the rail network
- Receiving a criminal record or a fine.

**Do not let alcohol ruin your or other people's day.**

**Ensure your behaviour is appropriate to your surroundings.**

***Would you behave like this in front of your family?***

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**Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny  
Committee****22 September 2015**

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance &amp; ICT

**Update on Implementation of Recommendations from Previously  
Completed Domestic Waste & Recycling Scrutiny Review****Summary**

1. This report provides Members with their first update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the previously completed Domestic waste & Recycling scrutiny review, and asks Members to sign off any recommendations now considered to be fully implemented.

**Background**

2. In June 2012 the Community Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee met to consider a number of possible topics for scrutiny review during the 2012/13 municipal year. They also received information on a number of planned service reviews by Directorates for areas within the committee's remit, which included:
  - The rationalisation of waste rounds (including consideration of a move away from the policy on same day waste collection arrangements)
  - Policies at household waste sites
  - Green waste collection
  - Commercial waste/recycling/incinerator
3. Discussion took place regarding a proposed topic on commercial waste. Officers provided information as to why commercial waste income targets were not being achieved and the charging structure, together with an update on the waste incinerator plan and the alternative arrangements that might be put in place depending on the outcome of an ongoing planning application.
4. In view of the planned service review of commercial waste, the Committee agreed that it would not be appropriate to carry out a scrutiny review on that topic at that time. However, they agreed there were

aspects of domestic recycling that merited review e.g. the disparity between rates of recycling within different parts of the community and comparisons with other local authorities.

5. At a meeting in July 2012, the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered an associated scrutiny topic submitted by Cllr Healey on Domestic Waste Recycling.
6. In coming to a decision to review the topic, the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee set up a Task Group to carry out the review on their behalf and agreed the following remit:

Remit - To identify future improvements in CYC's working methods in order to increase domestic waste recycling

**Key Objectives:**

- i. To consider best practice from exemplar Local Authorities including incentive schemes
  - ii. To consider the views of CYC waste operatives
  - iii. To gather evidence on the effectiveness of the initiatives scheduled for this financial year.
7. The review was completed in September 2014 and the review final report was presented to Cabinet in October 2014. At that time Cabinet approved all of the recommendations arising from the review, as listed in Column 1 of Annex A.
  8. Officers have now provided the first update on the implementation of those approved recommendations – see Column 2 of Annex A, and will be in attendance at this meeting to answer any questions arising.

**Options**

9. In light of the update information provided, Members may choose to:
  - a. Sign off any recommendations which have been fully implemented.
  - b. Request a further update on any recommendations outstanding, and the attendance of the relevant officer at a future scrutiny meeting in six months time.

**Council Plan 2011-15**

10. The Domestic Waste & Recycling Scrutiny Review supported the Council's priority to Protect the Environment i.e. the Council's aim to be

one of the best performing areas in the country for waste services; producing less waste overall and re-using, recycling and composting more household waste.

### Implications & Risk Management

11. There are no known implications or risks associated with the recommendations made in this report.

### Recommendations

12. Members are recommended to:
- i. Note the implementation update information detailed in Annex A and sign off any recommendations that have been fully implemented.
  - ii. Request that a further update on any recommendations outstanding be provided in January 2016 (if required).

Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which are still to be fully implemented.

### Contact Details

<b>Author:</b> Melanie Carr Scrutiny Officer Scrutiny Services 01904 552063	<b>Chief Officer Responsible for the report:</b> Andrew Docherty Assistant Director, Governance & ICT 01904 55
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**Report Approved**  **Date** 1 June 2015

**Wards Affected:** **All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

### Annexes:

Annex A – Update on Domestic Waste and Recycling Review Recommendations

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**Implementation Update of Approved Recommendations from Domestic Waste & Recycling Scrutiny Review**

Recommendation	Implementation Status as of June 2015
i. Future area based project work should use whole daily collection rounds where practical to facilitate more efficient data collection, analysis and reporting.	<p>Due to staff sickness absence and changes to management / structures, no action has been taken on these recommendations.</p> <p>However a report is scheduled to go the scrutiny meeting in November which will include an action plan to address these recommendations.</p>
ii. The branding should be developed, and bespoke and consistent campaign communications should be produced.	
iii. Future door step surveys should be carried out in-house or by other lower cost methods rather than be an external company.	
iv. Where practical, project work should be developed in conjunction with our local higher education establishments to give added value to the process and reduce the costs.	
v. Future campaigns should follow the example of this review by strictly measuring costs against benefits.	
vi. The level of savings expected to be achieved with project work should be identified, to establish a base against which all future campaigns can be measured.	
vii. Sufficient resources and capacity be maintained to enable the continuation of work at a community level and to allow officers time to establish measures that may foster longer term behavioural change and sustained levels of participation.	
viii. Future campaigns to include working with parish councils, residents' associations and schools.	

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## Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee – Workplan 2015-16

Dates	Work Programme
16 June 2015 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introductory Report inc. Ideas on Potential Topics for Review in this Municipal Year</li> <li>2. Verbal update on the Costs Associated with Fly-tipping</li> <li>3. Further Implementation Update on Recommendations from Community Resilience Scrutiny Review</li> <li>4. Workplan 2015-16</li> </ol>
27 July 2015 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attendance of the Executive Member for Environment</li> <li>2. Safer York Partnership Bi-Annual Performance Report (Jane Mowat)</li> <li>3. Briefing Paper on Domestic Violence (Jane Mowat)</li> <li>4. Report on Proposals for New Community Engagement Model (CC/MB)</li> <li>5. Workplan 2015-16</li> </ol>
22 Sept 2015 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attendance of Executive Member for Housing &amp; Safer Neighbourhoods</li> <li>2. CYC Year End Financial &amp; Performance Monitoring Report</li> <li>3. CYC First Qtr Finance &amp; Performance Monitoring Report (Patrick Looker)</li> <li>4. Update on the work of AVANTE (Alcohol, Violence &amp; Night-Time Economy) (Tanya Lyon SYP)</li> <li>5. Feasibility Report on Proposed Scrutiny Topics: 'Geese' and 'Stag &amp; Hen Parties'</li> <li>6. Implementation Update on Recommendations from Domestic Waste Scrutiny Review</li> <li>7. Workplan 2015-16</li> </ol>
17 Nov 2015 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update report on work of Horse Bailiff</li> <li>2. Implementation Update on Recommendations from A-boards Scrutiny Review</li> <li>3. Workplan 2015-16</li> </ol>
20 Jan 2016 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safer York Partnership Bi-Annual Performance Report (Ian Cunningham/Jane Mowat)</li> <li>2. CYC Second Qtr Finance &amp; Performance Monitoring Report (Patrick Looker)</li> <li>3. Workplan 2015-16</li> </ol>
15 March 2016 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CYC Third Qtr Finance &amp; Performance Monitoring Report</li> <li>2. Update on Anti-Social Behaviour Hub</li> <li>3. Workplan 2015-16</li> </ol>

17 May  
2016 @  
5:30pm