

Meeting	Decision Session - Economic Development and Community Engagement (Deputy Leader)
Date	10 May 2016
Present	Councillor Aspden (Executive Member)
In Attendance	Councillors Ayre & Waller (for Minute Item 20)

17. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member and the Executive Members in attendance were asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that they may have had in the business on the agenda. They declared that they had none.

18. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last Decision Session held on 12 April 2016 be signed and approved as a correct record by the Executive Member.

19. Public Participation

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

20. Supporting the Local Delivery of Improvement to York's Parks, Gardens, and Open Spaces

The Executive Member considered in consultation with the Executive Members for Environment and Culture, Leisure and Tourism a report which proposed using additional investment of £150k in 2016/17 and 2017/18, to support the Pride in York local delivery of environmental projects and ground maintenance, and to build capacity in the voluntary sector.

Officers stressed the importance of greater co-ordinated volunteer activity currently taking place, and informed the Executive Members of projects within the city, such as in Hull Road Park. They reported that, in this park, Section 106 monies had helped to rebuild the tennis courts; however, there were still outstanding issues such as the beck which was visually unattractive and which would need additional money to dredge. It was reported that the fund could breathe life into potential masterplans to take forward relevant projects in each of the city's parks and gardens.

It was questioned whether the Core Tasks had been set out clearly so that communities understood what the Council would do and where community groups could add value. The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism felt there to be a risk in diluting £50,000 of funding between supporting volunteering activity and targeting projects in wards that had been affected by previous reductions. The Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement suggested that the funding be used in a combined way to target both priorities if possible.

Resolved: That;

- (i) That the allocation of £100k funding to wards as set out in Annex 1 be agreed.
- (ii) That the core standards set out in Paragraph 7 of the Officer's report be agreed.
- (iii) That the funding of £50k be used on a city wide basis from a combination as set out in Paragraph 13 a) and b) of the Officer's report.

Reason: To support community initiatives to improve York's parks and open spaces.

21. Review of York's Parish Charter

The Executive Member received a report which asked to approve the final draft Charter for signing by City of York Council and offer it to the York Branch of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA) for signing on behalf of the city's parish and town councils.

Officers that an amendment needed to be made to the wording of the charter. At Paragraph 4, “principal authority” needed to be changed to “City of York Council”.

Resolved: That Option 1 to approve the final draft charter be approved and the final draft Charter be offered for signing by the York Branch of the YLCA.

Reason: To advance joint working between City of York Council and York’s parish councils.

Councillor K Aspden, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 1.34 pm and finished at 1.59 pm].