

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning  In Consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods (for agenda item 3. Formal Enforcement Action)
Date	20 January 2020
Present	Councillor Waller and Craghill
Apologies	

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### **31. Declarations of Interest**

The Executive 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. None were declared.

### **32. Public Participation**

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

### **33. Formal Enforcement Action**

The Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning was joined in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods to consider a report that provided a review of the formal enforcement action as well as the surveillance activity undertaken in 2018-19. The Executive Members thanked officers for the comprehensive report. They discussed several areas of enforcement action and requested that future reports on formal enforcement action include previous years statistics for comparison. They also requested that where possible if reports could include comparison figures from similar local authorities. The Executive Members also noted that they were happy with policy document, but that it could it could indicate City of York Council priorities.

Officers confirmed that they had written to the Department for Transport, requesting that Taxi Licensing reform is placed at the

top of their agenda, as well as, having written to local government association, they noted that they are awaiting a response form the Department for Transport.

The Executive Member requested that more detail on national trading standards be included in future reports and that for neighbourhood enforcement reports on relevant formal enforcement action be presented to ward teams.

Resolved:

- i. That the Executive Members approve the report.
- ii. That the relevant data collected in this report for neighbourhood enforcement, be reported on a quarterly bases to ward teams.
- iii. That thanks was recorded to officers for the work undertaken.

Reason: To provide oversight to the activity undertaken in 2018-19, and meet the requirement of the surveillance commissioner for Member oversight of surveillance activity.

#### **34. Planning Enforcement Update**

The Executive Member considered a report that provided an update on planning enforcement cases and a vision for the planning enforcement section into the future. Officers introduced the report and noted an amendment on page 35 of the agenda (Paragraph 20 of item 4.), that the Principal Planning Officer was appointed in November 2017 not November 2019. The Executive Member noted the importance of Members being given opportunity to feed into the Planning Enforcement Plan while it was being created and requested that a draft plan be brought to a future decision session in Autumn 2020.

Discussion took place around how clarity is to be provided on why certain cases require greater prioritisation than others and on renewable power in the Supplementary Planning Documents.

Resolved:

- i. That the contents of the report be noted.

- ii. That a report on the draft Planning Enforcement Plan be brought to a future decision session in autumn 2020, following a consultation with all Members.

Reason: So that all Members are given sufficient opportunity to feed into the Planning Enforcement Plan.

### **35. York Business Perceptions Survey – BEIS Funded Project**

The Executive Member considered a report that provided an update on the findings from City of York Council's York Business Perceptions Survey. Officers introduced the report noting that the survey showed that the majority of York businesses that participated had a stable or increasing headcount, turnover, and overall business performance. However, a significant number of businesses were cautious about the future, with national economic issues such as Brexit being the major cause for concern. A smaller number of local issues also exist that were challenging businesses' growth potential. The survey also identified that three quarters of the businesses that participated had sought information or advice in the last 12 months with regulatory support the most common area mentioned. The businesses surveyed value the advice and support that the Council's regulatory services provide however, it was noted that the Council could be more proactive in terms of their engagement with businesses.

Discussion took place regarding concerns that York businesses in the retail, hospitality and tourism sectors were unable to receive business support from York's two Local Enterprise Partnerships due to the eligibility criteria imposed by this funding. The Executive Member enquired as to how the creation of City of York Council's business e-newsletter and business support providers meeting group would function and provide feedback, officers confirmed that they would bring an update on these functions back to a future decision session. Noting the concerns raised around Brexit the Executive Member also requested that the Brexit Contingency Fund be used to support follow up work resulting from the York Business Perceptions Survey.

Resolved:

- i. That the findings of the York Business Perceptions survey be noted.
- ii. That the creation of City of York Council's Business Services e-leaflet as a method of communicating the support offer to local businesses through the council and its strategic partners be approved, with an update on responses to a business focused Council e-newsletter being brought to the July Decision Session for Economy and Strategic Planning.
- iii. That support was given to the creation of a business support providers meeting group made up of intermediaries and business organisations, facilitated by City of York Council and Make it York, to collectively share information on the business landscape in York, subject to an update on how this will function, being brought to the July Decision Session for Economy and Strategic Planning.
- iv. That the Executive Member will raise the eligibility barriers faced by York businesses when accessing the support offer provided by York's two Local Enterprise Partnership's with the Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- v. Due to Brexit being cited as a major challenge to business growth in the results of the York Business Perceptions Survey, the Executive Member requested that officers enquire about accessing funding from the Brexit Contingency Fund, to support follow up work resulting from the York Business Perceptions Survey.

Reason: To further support the business environment in York.

Cllr. A Waller, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 2.02 pm and finished at 2.47 pm].