

Report of the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability

City-Wide Renewable Energy

Final work is being carried on a draft CYC Delivery and Innovation Fund (DIF) bid to fund partnership work to accelerate city wide district heat network opportunities.

A Low Carbon Investment Pipeline has been created for York. This will help set out York's potential for projects that now need further feasibility and to attract investment and / or funding to accelerate. This will also form part of a Leeds City Region (LCR) Low Carbon Investment Pipeline and link to the new LCR Investment Plan.

As part of the LCR Low Carbon Pioneer Programme, DECC has approved support for a LCR heat map. CYC are supporting the LCR to develop a brief for the development of this heat map. This work will also include a York based heat map. This will illustrate potential opportunities for CYC and partners to then investigate and develop (and be used for planning / local plan development).

As part of the LCR Low Carbon Pioneer Programme CYC was unsuccessful in their small bid for initial feasibility work on the University of York / South East York potential heat network /cluster.

Green Deal

Under the LCR Low Carbon Pioneer Programme, CYC, with partners Yorkshire Energy Partnership (YEP), have been successful in a bid for money to pilot the installation of interest free loans to pay for solid wall insulation in hard to treat areas of the city. It is anticipated that this work will commence from October 2012 (please note this is subject to final clarifications that CYC is awaiting from DECC). 50 homes in the Leeman Road area, Lawrence Street and Tang Hall areas will be targeted.

A paper is being produced on maximising the opportunities from the much delayed, incredibly complicated and less than generously funded Green Deal in York.

Community Campaigns and Awareness

We need to mobilise York residents and businesses around the import of the Climate Change agenda. I was pleased to follow up a suggestion from Christian Vassie and the York Environment Forum on this front with the launching of York is ENGAGED! on 25th September 2012 at the Food and Drink Festival.

Air Quality

The revised Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) due to worsening air quality that breaches the short term NO₂ limit for the first time in Rougier Street /George Hudson Street and the long term limit in Queen Street came into effect on 28th September.

Following public consultation the low emission strategy will go to Cabinet for adoption on 9th October. A revised Air Quality Action Plan will be available for consultation in late 2012 / early 2013.

Air Quality grant bid to Defra

We bid for a total of £235,000 and received £148,980 towards the following Low Emission Strategy projects:

- Public information campaign on air pollution and health
- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) refuelling feasibility study for York
- Promotion of low emission vehicles and taxis, including vehicle demonstration days, purchase / lease of a high profile low emission vehicle for use on promotional work by CYC staff and development of a Low Emission Taxi Incentive Scheme
- Idling Vehicle Strategy Feasibility- develop an evidence base to demonstrate the reduction in vehicle emissions achievable through the introduction of anti-idling policies.
- Assessing the likely real-life emission reduction of the i-Travel York campaign, using best available modelling techniques.

We aim to make up the shortfall through negotiations with suppliers and assistance from the i-Travel team.

Low Emission Zone feasibility study

The study is progressing towards a conclusion.

EV charging

EPU has £60,000 for electric vehicle charging points at council car parks and existing Park & Rides and are about to go out to tender.

EPU was awarded £15,000 by the Energy Saving Trust Plugged-in Fleets initiative for analysis of electric vehicles suitability within the CYC fleet. A survey of Hazel Court has identified the site as being ideally suited to electric vehicles.

Electric vehicle (EV) charging points are being rolled out at the new Park & Ride sites and various locations through the planning process. We have also obtained “free” EV charging points for hotels, B&Bs and leisure facilities with secure parking. EV points have been installed at the Marriott Hotel and the Groves and further EV points are planned for the Monk Bar Hotel and others.

Taxi emissions

We are currently offering taxi drivers £1500 off the price of a low emission vehicle to increase the uptake. We are also promoting existing discounts for low emission taxi licences.

Freight

The freight transshipment centre feasibility study by JMP is underway. The criteria for the ECO-Stars fleet recognition scheme have been agreed and we are currently planning the launch of the scheme in York, but will require sign up from the CYC fleet.

Building Control

Workloads have been negatively affected by the downturn, and steps have been being taken to address the financial consequence. Arrangements are being finalised for John Fowler to manage the Building Control service for Harrogate Borough Council, initially for a 12 month trial period with Harrogate buying two days a week time from us, as part of the strategic savings approach both councils are having to undertake.

Building Control's mobile working platform will become live during October as part of revised working practices in line with reduced staffing levels and the move to West Offices.

We're continuing to progress Labour's key Reinvigorate York initiative to address the long period of minimal investment in the city centre, its changing nature, much sharper competition from other improving visitor and retail destinations. And a wish to move York towards a world class destination. Interim upgrade funds were approved earlier in the year, and a further report at Cabinet on 4th September for £3.3M of EIF money on identified city centre projects. Work has already commenced with a presentation to City Team 28th September 2012. In terms of the key projects:

- Parliament Street (inc Piccadilly/ Coppergate junction) - initial design work for Reinvigorate York completed. Further work ongoing following approval of funding for improvements at Cabinet, September 2012
- King's Square - initial design work for Reinvigorate York completed. Further work, including design options and place check consultation, underway following approval of funding at Cabinet, September 2012
- Exhibition Square – stakeholder workshop 17th September 2012 in order to place check and identify design options. Presentation to City Team 28th September 2012
- Newgate Market (being led by Coun. Crisp) – Design options underway – report to City Team 28th September
- Public Space Manual –Stakeholder draft of Public Space Manual due shortly. Adoption anticipated beginning of 2013. This will be a key document setting out the long term design standards for the public realm.
- Arup Development & Archaeology Study – Funding for review secured. Consultant brief finalised May 2012 and project to start November 2012
- City centre access & mobility audit – Centre for Accessible Environments commissioned to undertake the work - fieldwork completed 24th August 2012. Consultation draft report due shortly.

Outside the city centre other important work on key sites is progressing:

- British Sugar – ongoing pre application discussions with ABF, Rapleys, and coordination with ATLAS. Viability appraisal and spatial/phasing work ongoing
- Affordable housing – a Commuted Sums paper, Interim targets updates and a report are being prepared for Cabinet.
- Stalled housing sites – joint work with housing services is well underway in order to identify problems with bringing individual sites forward and to produce a new strategy paper
- Student Accommodation Issues – initial examination of how we can better address the housing needs of our very successful and expanding higher education institutions whilst minimising negative consequences on the non-student housing supply is underway. In the meantime we have implemented an Article 4 direction on new Houses in Multiple Occupation to address the worst pressures on local communities that have arisen from the low provision of new on-campus accommodation relative to the rapid expansion of student numbers in the last decade.

Local Plan

We have finalised the withdrawal of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy following the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework, the inspector's concerns about viability and other issues, and the Monks Cross 2 development.

The next step has been to develop a timeframe for the implementation of a Local Plan for York for the first time in over 40 years. This is a priority that I am fully committed to, and which this administration will deliver as quickly as possible and in a way that is robust and stands up to rigorous external scrutiny.

So a provisional timetable is confirmed which includes as a first step a visioning exercise. We have commissioned consultants to review the plan's economic strategy, especially the city centre's future in the light of changes to high streets and the growth of internet shopping. Adequate housing growth and identifying viable sites will be another key element in getting the evidence base right. Ongoing discussions with developers regarding strategic sites will ensure that we approach the process

knowing what is deliverable and where work needs to be done to identify further sites.

Visioning workshops around the council plan themes will take place over October and November, to which interested parties have and will be invited. They will be based round the Council plan themes of:

Protect the Environment

Chair – Mike Childs (Head of Policy, Research and Science at Friends of the Earth)

Presenters – Kate Lock (Chair of the York Environment Forum) and Peter Brown (Director of York Civic Trust)

Get York Moving

Chair – Nigel Forster (Director Fore Consulting)

Presenters – Stephen Joseph (Director for Campaign for Better Transport) and Richard Wood (Assistant Director City of York Council)

Build Strong Communities

Chair – John Hocking (Executive Director of the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust)

Presenters – Fiona Boden (Senior Planner at Arup) and Eamonn Keogh (Chair of the York Property Forum)

Create Jobs and Grow the Economy

Details to be finalised and confirmed.

There will also be a Member Workshop

After the above themed workshops so we can include relevant feedback to Members.

Development management

Labour's commitment to getting York's economy moving again is underpinned by an effective planning service. We are in the process of starting to open up our service and make it more customer responsive and proactive in terms of enabling appropriate development and addressing the problems of stalled sites. This includes renegotiation of previous permissions and obligations to reflect the changed economic services, whilst still seeking, albeit on a reduced scale to address important social and environmental objectives.

On development management, a series of important major site approvals have been agreed on Monks Cross retail, as well as:

- Flood prevention scheme in the Leeman Road Area
- The amended Poppleton Park and Ride
- The Athletics and Cycle tracks at Heslington East
- Renewal of Hungate permission
- A further phase of the Derwenthorpe housing development and revised access arrangements
- Recent approval of the reuse of St Leonard's Place

Design Conservation and Sustainable Development

Areas of work include:

- Stewardship of the Built and Natural Environment through Specialist Advice
In support of the planning service at both pre-app and application stages.
as above
- Continue to deliver Climate Change Framework and Action Plan
- Continue to deliver CYC Carbon Management Plan / CRC and salix funded projects - the council is on target to meet it's ambitious carbon reduction targets for March 2013;
- Green Audit (of council property). The stage 1 (desk top review) is complete - stage 2 (property survey and recommendation) is well on and should highlight further energy / carbon saving projects including potential renewable energy projects for the selected properties, conducted in conjunction with my fellow Cabinet Member Coun. Gunnell;
- Develop Environment Management Scheme options - these are being developed with a paper on the implementation of an Environmental Management System due to be presented to the Sustainable Development Board later this month
- Additional more ambitious Investigations into Local Low Carbon / Renewable Energy opportunities are being progressed, with a DIF bid being prepared setting out the consultancy work necessary to asses the viability of large scale low carbon / renewable energy combined heat and power / district heating across the city with the support of partners including higher York and York NHS trust.
- Sustainability focused Developers Forum is being arranged with two events to promote higher standards of sustainable development being organised by March 2013

- Wheldrake Village Design Statement – final draft being prepared by local group, to be presented to Members Autumn 2012 to go out for consultation
- Fulford Village Design Statement – ongoing
- Strensall Village Design statement – underway. Steering Group formed
- The long outstanding Bio Diversity Action Plan and Tree Strategies that Labour pressed for in opposition are being drafted, the latter in conjunction with my fellow Cabinet Member Coun. Crisp;
- Tremendous – Ongoing support including input/ support to successful BTCV bid for £25K Big Tree Plant funding for tree planting in the city. Currently preparing bid for DIF/ EIF funding for Liaison Officer post to take project forward to next stage;
- CITA project grant application - additional funding bids being developed for River corridors and ring road, and significant works to Crematorium and wildflowering (in partnership with BugLife) also organised and implemented to promote habitat creation and enhance biodiversity. Planting strategies in Council parks and open spaces, etc. are being amended to provide additional flowering species to help address the problems of declining bee populations. I congratulate Friends of the Earth for their campaigns on this and local input.
- Heritage Strategy is in draft – needs to progress as council action plan or City wide strategy with buy in from partners.
- Article 4 Directions - we are following through on management actions of Central Historic Core Conservation Area Character Appraisal, starting shortly with initial local consultations for the Bishophill Area
- Guildhall RIBA Ideas Competition Launched on 11th September, in conjunction with my fellow Cabinet Member Coun. Gunnell

This is an increasingly important area of this administration's commitment to the built and green environments, and to addressing the key issue of climate change and sustainability.

Climate Change

The news from the Arctic about the serious further major loss of ice this summer and indications that change is happening at the worst end of previous modelling predictions, highlights the import of not just delivering previous carbon reduction plans, but seeking to accelerate them all if possible. We are therefore continuing our bit to deliver existing commitments and consider what further opportunities we can identify, despite reducing budgets.

Flooding

I thought it would be useful to provide some comparisons on the impact of recent floods with other significant floods over the past 30 years, on residential properties:

In 1982 the river reached 5.05 m ASL (above summer levels):

- 540 properties were flooded
- 225 properties were defended by the recently constructed Leeman Road defence scheme
- A further 320 were at risk of flooding

In 2000 the river reached 5.4m ASL

- 353 properties flooded
- The defences protected approximately 1,000 properties

In 2012 the river reached 5.09m ASL

- 50 – 60 properties were flooded in undefended areas, the permanent and temporary defences protected approximately 1,040 properties, the difference being the success of the sandbagging and pumping at Clementhorpe.

It is difficult to be exact regarding comparative numbers as the 1982 figure did not include Rawcliffe, Fulford, Naburn, Acaster Malbis and Bishopthorpe which were outside York at the time. They accounted for a good part of the properties affected in 2000.

I join my colleagues in thanking all agencies and residents for their efforts in preventing the flooding of properties, which for many was another narrow escape. Our sympathies and support goes to those who weren't so lucky. We will be pushing the Government for support for the clean up operation and for further flood protection schemes that are still required in our city.

Get York Moving

Capital Programme

1. Blossom Street/ Holgate Road Improvements and Bus stop upgrades in Clifford Street were completed in April

2. Equipment has been purchased for the new traffic management and CCTV room in West Offices
3. Procurement of the Access York project has commenced with the publication of the OJEU Notice in June
4. Revised planning application for Poppleton Bar approved.

Network Management

Officers successfully put arrangements in place for the smooth operation of both the Queen's visit and the Olympic torch relay for which I thank them.

The team are also heavily involved in the Reinvigorate York initiative, detailed above.

LTP3

LTP3 sets out the inherited transport strategy for the city and the measures to be progressed in the short-term (2011-2015), medium-term (2015-2021) and long-term (2021 -2031), under the following strategic themes:

- Provide Quality Alternatives (to the car).
- Provide Strategic Links
- Implement and Support Behavioural Change.
- Tackle Transport Emissions.
- Improve Public Streets and Spaces

The final headings reflect Labour's representations at the time and remain a good framework for taking forward the City's transport agenda. Infrastructure improvements proposed over the LTP3 period are included in the document and delivery, changed to reflect Labour's priorities of being tough on congestion, working towards a step change improvement in local bus services, addressing gaps in the cycling network, introducing 20mph in residential streets and being serious about tackling air quality, are identified in detail in the Capital Programme reports to the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability Decision Sessions.

Integrated Transport Capital Programme

The original Planning and Transport capital programme budget for 2012/13 was £7.4m, but with carryovers and additional items has increased to £8.9m.

The key schemes planned to be progressed in 2012/13 are shown below:

- Access York Phase 1: A59 bus priority schemes and two new Park & Ride sites.
- Public Transport Schemes: Bus stop upgrades; Bus Location & Information Sub-system improvements; provision of real-time displays at stops; provision of off-bus ticket machines at P&R sites.
- Better Bus Area Fund schemes: bus priority improvements; improvements to bus interchanges in the city centre; bus stop and shelter upgrades.
- James Street Link Road Phase 2: dependent on progress of development.
- UTMIC & BLISS: Upgrades for move to new council headquarters.
- Fishergate – Pedestrian Route to Barbican: Improvements to crossings on Paragon Street and improvements to Fishergate Bar area.
- Haxby to Clifton Moor Cycle Route: New off-road cycle route along Outer Ring Road.
- Cycling Network Priority Schemes: Development and implementation of highest priority schemes (as identified in report to 21 May Decision Session).
- 20mph Programme: Implementation of South Bank scheme and development and implementation of Acomb area scheme.
- School Schemes: Rolling programme of improvements to improve sustainable access to schools.
- Safety Schemes: Schemes to address local safety, danger reduction and speed management issues.

Access York Phase 1

A major scheme to deliver an enhanced Park & Ride service, capacity improvements to A59/A1237 roundabout and bus priorities on the A59. The key milestones for the project are indicated below.

Programme Entry Status confirmed in Autumn Statement on 29th November 2011.

Main Programme:

- Finalise design: August 2012
 - Start procurement of contractor: June 2012
 - Tender main works: October/November 2012
 - Final Approval: January 2012
 - Start construction: February/March 2013
 - Sites operational: Spring/Summer 2014.
- Consultation on highway elements of project completed in February 2012 with final layouts approved at April City Strategy Decision Session.
 - Variation to planning application for Poppleton Bar site, to accommodate village green identified on part of the site, submitted in June. Application approved at Planning Committee in September.

The design of the main sites is nearly complete with the scheme due to be put out to tender by early October. A shortlist of suitable companies has been prepared.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

Tremendous progress has been made by the small team under Graham Titchener on the i-travel York initiative, and the latest highlight report providing an update against capital and revenue spend is available on request. On the key hearts and minds side the promotion and engagement strategy was agreed earlier this year, and is rolling out. On 18th September we had the milestone launch of the i-travel York website with a range of information and sustainable journey planning tools. Other notable events were the launch of the momentum road safety campaign (young driver assessment), and the festival of cycling in Rowntree Park on 8/9th September.

20mph Limits

A policy approach to delivering and installing 20mph schemes was agreed at the Decision Session for the Cabinet Member for City Strategy on 3rd May 2012. An outline programme for rolling out 20mph speed limits across the Local Authority area (included in the report) has been put in place. The installation of the first part of the scheme in South Bank commenced on 13th September. An associated website is under

development as a key source of information on what the initiative is about, and providing details of the rollout programme and in due course scheme details.

Work has already commenced on the next phase (south west sector between Boroughbridge Road and Tadcaster Road). Initial internal consultation has taken place on the proposals and wider consultation will be programmed for the Autumn to enable delivery of the scheme in the last quarter of 2012/13.

It was welcome to see the support and commitment of the Liberal Democrat conference, notably from Lib Dem Transport Minister Norman Baker and Leader Nick Clegg to 20 mph schemes nationally. Changes to Government guidance on 20 mph schemes initiated by Norman Baker are also proving very helpful. The initiative, as the latest results from Newcastle show, can have significant safety benefits, as well as the quality of place improvements. I hope the Liberal Democrats locally will pause to reflect and reconsider their position on the issue.

Better Bus Fund

A successful bid was made to the Better Bus Fund (a sister fund to the LSTF) and in March 2012 CYC was awarded £2.925m by the Government alongside internal match funding of approximately £1.8m. This will deliver a range of schemes that aim to improve reliability, promotion and passenger facilities. These improvements will focus primarily on the corridors, Coppergate-Ouse Bridge-Rougier Street-Station Street and Station Street-Lendal Bridge-Gillygate. The funding is provided over a two year period. The successful bid is available on the Council's website at:

http://www.york.gov.uk/transport/Public_transport/buses/Better_Bus_Are_a_Fund/

On top of what was already a large capital programme, delivering the BBAF is an additional challenge. Additional engineering resources are to be employed to deliver the programme. A programme manager post has been advertised and shortlisting is taking place.

A key part of the BBAF work (and affecting other schemes/programmes being delivered across the city) is the strategic modelling that will identify traffic redistribution patterns as a result of restrictions and highlight

junctions where improvements will be required in order to support the alterations to the spine.

The above demonstrates the enormous amount of work taking place and I'd like to express my appreciation to our staff for their efforts.