

**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, Coney Street, York, YO1 9QN** to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Wednesday, 17 July 2024 at 6.30 pm

A G E N D A

1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, Members and co-opted 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. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

- (1) *Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:*

Type of Interest

You must:

*Disclosable
Pecuniary Interests*

Disclose the interest; not participate the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

*Other Registrable
Interests (Directly
Related)*

OR

*Non-Registrable
Interests (Directly
Related)*

Disclose the interest; speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

*Other Registrable
Interests (Affects)*

OR

*Non-Registrable
Interests (Affects)*

Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate, and vote unless the matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and*
- (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest,*

in which case speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting, unless you have a dispensation.

- (2) *Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (3) *Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 38)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meetings held on 21 March 2024 and 23 May 2024.

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 Monday, 15 July 2024.**

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 B5. Notice has been received of two petitions to be presented by:

- i. Cllr Waller – regarding an Estate Manager for the Chapelfields Estate.
- ii. Cllr Whitcroft – regarding the proposal to locate a new McDonalds restaurant off Fulford Road.

6. Report of Executive Leader and Questions (Pages 39 - 46)

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 47 - 48)

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 B13:

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

- (i) From Cllr B Burton

York Public Spending

“Council notes:

- Real terms funding reductions to City of York Council over a sustained period;
- The very difficult decisions the council has taken since 2011 to balance the budget - decisions involving all of York’s main political parties;
- The particular challenges for York of having the lowest funding across all public services of any single tier council area in the country, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and the compound effect this has for each

individual public service;

- Acute problems around access to affordable dentistry, A&E and mental health care, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision in schools;
- The prospect of increasingly difficult budget decisions impacting valued council services over the next three years if national funding remains as forecast in the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy;
- York's membership of the F20 Group of lowest funded local authorities in the country and the need for that Group to be active at this point in making its case to the new Government.

Council believes:

- While political groups often have different priorities, councillors share a commitment to the city's services receiving fair funding.
- Further, it believes specific pressure areas for local government require long term solutions and should be a priority for the new Government:

Council resolves:

- To request the Chief Finance Officer and Executive Leader jointly write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request urgency in concluding the Fair Funding Review, first signalled by the Government in 2016, detailing why this is necessary;
- To request this opportunity is used to also highlight service pressures and to request long-term funding certainty to enable the council to plan its services over the period of each four-year electoral cycle;
- To request the Director of Public Health and Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care write to the Secretary of State for Health, pushing for early reform of the NHS dental contract to open up greater access to NHS dentistry in the city as soon as possible;
- To request Executive works collaboratively with other parts of the public sector locally, including York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, to consider how each can make efficiencies and save money by reviewing how services are delivered;
- To put on record its thanks to staff and partners for their work over several years in such challenging circumstances,

and for their continued commitment to service delivery to the city.”

(ii) From Cllr Knight

Giving York’s children the best start in life

“Council notes:

- The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.
- Analysis by the Child Poverty Action Group shows that 900,000 children living in poverty in England do not currently qualify for free school meals because the Conservative Government introduced an arbitrary £7,400 household income threshold in 2018.
- A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns mental health problems and cost-of-living pressures on families are among the complex reasons for increased absenteeism.
- There are 2,737 children living in absolute poverty, representing 8.9% of all children in York.
- There are 3,372 children living in relative poverty, representing 11% of all children in York.

Council believes:

- Scrapping the two-child limit is the most cost-effective way to reduce child poverty. It would lift 250,000 children out of poverty and mean 850,000 children are in less deep poverty across the UK and will lift at least 325 children in York out of absolute poverty.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Council Leader to write to Members of Parliament representing York Central and York Outer, expressing the Council’s support for the scrapping of the two-child benefit cap.
- Ask the Council Leader to write to the new Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to encourage them to scrap the two-child benefit cap.”

(iii) From Cllr Baxter

Ending disenfranchisement in elections

“Council notes:

- The significant increase in voters registering to vote by post since 1997, when fewer than 1 million were registered, to the 2024 Parliamentary Election where an estimated 10 million (approx. 1 in 5) were registered to vote by post;
- The importance of ensuring the postal voting system is robust as it accounts for a growing proportion of votes cast with every election;
- National law prevents Returning Officers from issuing emergency proxy votes to electors whose postal votes have not arrived on time, leaving the potential for them being unable to vote;
- Issues in the 2024 Parliamentary Election with the timely delivery of postal vote applications and ballot papers through the postal system, and the impact this has had on electors with many left unable to vote;
- The recommended solution for the late arrival of postal vote ballot papers being to take them to a polling station instead of posting them fails to acknowledge mobility as one of the main challenges to voting in person and why people register for postal votes in the first place;
- Some electors also being left unable to vote following the requirement to present Voter ID, evidenced by Electoral Commission data returns from polling stations nationally in 2023;
- The requirement for Voter ID disproportionately affecting those from low-income households and other marginalised groups.

Council believes:

- The Government should listen to the legitimate concerns of professional members of the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) who state the legal timetable around postal votes means the current system gets overloaded and cannot cope.
- Disenfranchising voters in a democracy is inexcusable and must be urgently reviewed to ensure it doesn't happen again in future.

Council puts on record its thanks to council and other staff working so hard over local, regional and national elections to support the democratic process.

Council resolves to:

- Ask Group Leaders to write to the Secretary of State with

responsibility for Local Government and to the Minister with responsibility for elections to support the calls of the AEA in requesting a review of current postal and emergency proxy vote rules, including revising the timetable for postal vote registrations, to ensure everyone who registers can vote;

- Request the Government conducts a review of the requirement to present ID to vote that considers:
 - a) the types of ID accepted; and
 - b) if it is shown to disenfranchise registered voters that the requirement to present ID to vote is scrapped altogether.”

(iv) From Cllr Ayre

Fair Funding for York

“Council notes:

- The Institute for Fiscal Studies released a report into the disparity of funding for the same public services in different Council areas
- The IFS finding that the national average of funding per person is £4310 compared to only £3642 for York, ranking York last in England and significantly behind North Yorkshire (£4005 per person) and East Riding (£4059 per person) when all services were considered
- Of the 150 Council areas in England, York ranked 150th overall, 147th in NHS funding, 148th in schools funding, 143rd in Local Government funding, 49th in Police funding and 127th in public health funding. This represents a £668 per person shortfall in spending on the national average or a £135 million gap for the city as a whole
- The work the previous Liberal Democrat led administration did to highlight this issue and help form a cross-party group of councils from across the county to lobby for a fair funding solution for the least well-funded councils in England
- The casework issues ward councillors have experienced in York with residents who can't book a GP appointment, can't register with an NHS dentist, struggle to find school places or have been affected by crime and anti-social behaviour
- The specific challenges York faces relating to increasing numbers of older residents and the need to provide for additional Adult Social Care services

Council believes:

- Successive governments have failed to address the long-

- standing lack of funding across all public services in York
- The new government should invest an extra £300 million into the local authorities that struggle to provide essential and valued services to their local communities due to low core spending power
 - The F20 group is right that there should be a funding floor of 90% of average core spending power of local authorities, if this was enacted York would gain £78 extra per capita
 - Fair funding for York would mean the council would be better able to provide the services that are desperately needed to fix the crisis in funding of Adult Social Care we see in York

Council resolves to:

- Request the Council Leader and Leader of the Liberal Democrat group write to the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge the government to take action to resolve York's chronic underfunding by central government by closing the funding gap between York and the national average within this parliament.
- Request the Council Leader to write to York's Labour MPs to request that they urgently lobby the government to introduce a fair funding solution to close the gap between the most and least funded Council areas in England
- Request the Council to engage with the F20 group of the lowest funded Council areas in England to build an England wide campaign for fair funding and enact their principles in the next funding settlement
- Call on the new government to commit to a funding floor of 90% in the next financial settlement."

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 B11.

10. Report of Executive Member (Pages 49 - 60)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency, and to question the Executive Member thereon, in accordance with Standing Orders B9 and B10.

- 11. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee**
(Pages 61 - 64)
To receive a report from Councillor Fenton, Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee, on the work of the Committee.
- 12. Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members** (Pages 65 - 72)
The report asks Council to agree the adoption of the proposed Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members, attached at Annex A to the report, together with agreeing dispensations for any Members taking Parental Leave in accordance with the Policy, and delegating authority to the Monitoring Officer to confirm such dispensations outside of Council.
- 13. Joint Standards Committee Annual Report for 2023/2024**
(Pages 73 - 80)
To receive a report of the Monitoring Officer presenting the Annual Report of the Joint Standards Committee for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.
- 14. Use of General Exception (Urgency) and Special Urgency Procedures** (Pages 81 - 86)
This report updates Council on the use of Special Urgency procedures, as required by legislation, and as set out within the City of York Council Constitution and provides information on instances where General Exception (i.e. Urgency) Procedures were used.
- 15. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer

Jane Meller

Contact details:

- Telephone: (01904) 551088
- Email: democratic.services@york.gov.uk

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Call us: **01904 551550** and customer services will pass your request onto the Access Team.



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We can also translate into the following languages:

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 مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and

Contact details are set out above.

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Democracy Officer

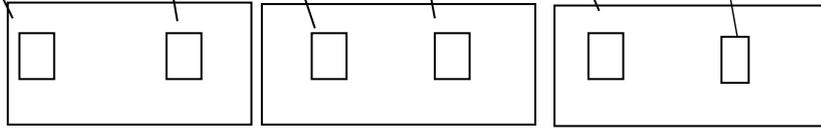
L Tomlinson,
Head of
Democratic
Governance

Cllr Wells,
Lord Mayor

B Roberts,
Monitoring
Officer

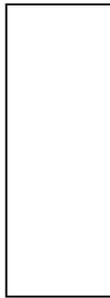
I Floyd,
Chief Operating
Officer

D Mitchell, Chief
Finance Officer



Cllr Kent	Cllr Ravilious	Cllr Pavlovic	Cllr Steels-Walshaw	Cllr Douglas	Cllr Kilbane	Cllr Lomas	Cllr Baxter	Cllr Webb
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Cllr Clarke	Cllr Nelson
Cllr Moroney	Cllr Merrett
Cllr Melly	Cllr Wilson
Cllr Myers	Cllr Coles
	Cllr Warters



Cllr B. Burton	Cllr Rose
Cllr Crawshaw	Cllr Whitcroft
Cllr J. Burton	Cllr Taylor
Cllr Steward	Cllr Nicholls
Cllr Rowley BEM	

Cllr Smalley	Cllr Runciman	Cllr Waller	Cllr Widdowson	Cllr Ayre	Cllr Healey	Cllr Fenton	Cllr Mason	Cllr Orrell	
Cllr Hook	Cllr Cuthbertson	Cllr Fisher	Cllr Cullwick	Cllr Pearson	Cllr Hollyer	Cllr Wann	Cllr Vassie	Cllr Knight	Cllr Waudby

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City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in The Citadel, York on Thursday, 21 March 2024, starting at 6.30 pm.

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

Acomb Ward	Bishopthorpe Ward
Lomas Rose	Nicholls
Clifton Ward	Copmanthorpe Ward
D Myers Wells	Steward
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	Fishergate Ward
Fenton Mason Widdowson	Whitcroft Wilson
Fulford and Heslington Ward	Guildhall Ward
Ravilious	Clarke Melly Merrett
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	Heworth Ward
Cuthbertson Hollyer Pearson	Douglas Webb
Heworth Without Ward	Holgate Ward
Ayre	Kent Steels-Walshaw Taylor

Hull Road Ward

Baxter
Kelly
Pavlovic

Huntington and New Earswick
Ward

Orrell
Runciman

Micklegate Ward

J Burton
Crawshaw
Kilbane

Osbalwick and Derwent Ward

Rowley BEM
Warters

Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward

Wann
Waudby

Rural West York Ward

Hook
Knight

Strensall Ward

Fisher
Healey

Westfield Ward

Coles
Nelson
Waller

Wheldrake Ward

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Burton and Smalley.

70. Declarations of Interest (6:40 pm)

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

71. Minutes (6:41 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 February 2024 be approved and then signed by the Chair as a correct record.

72. Civic Announcements (6:41 pm)

The Lord Mayor acknowledged his year in office and his last two fund raising events, a murder mystery evening taking place in the Mansion House on 22 April 2024 and the Lord Mayor's Ball taking place on 18 May 2024 in the Guildhall. He also noted that it had been his privilege, along with the civic party, to promote York as a City of Sanctuary and a City of Human Rights.

He also announced that since the last meeting he had attended York Mosque to share in the iftar and had joined York's Jewish community and many others at the annual commemoration of the tragic event that took place on 16 March 1190.

73. Public Participation (6:45 pm)

It was reported that six people had registered to speak at the meeting under the council's Public Participation Scheme.

All speakers referenced Agenda Item 5, Petitions, particularly in relation to calling for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire in Gaza and Israel.

Imam Ammar Sacha spoke on community cohesion recognising the ongoing genocide and crisis in Palestine and the need to call for an immediate permanent ceasefire as well as the need for sanitarian and humanitarian aid.

Rabbi Elisheva Salamo also spoke on community cohesion highlighting some lived experiences, noting that antisemitism and antisemitic incidents had increased. She also addressed the

situation in Gaza and recognised the need for peace, humanitarian aid and a call for a ceasefire.

Dr Richard Murgatroyd addressed York's status as a City of Human Rights and a City of Sanctuary in light of the crisis in Gaza and called for the council to support justice for Palestine and the need for a ceasefire.

Professor Mohamed El-Gomati called for a ceasefire in Gaza, restoration of all food supplies and other amenities as well as exchange of all detainees on both sides.

Mr Chris Brace called for a robust and unequivocal demand for a ceasefire. He acknowledged how the council could support an end to the siege in Gaza.

The remaining registered speaker did not attend the meeting.

The Lord Mayor thanked all public participants for their contributions.

74. Petitions (7:07 pm)

Under Rule B5 2, the following petitions were presented for reference to the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee, in accordance with the Council's petition arrangements:

- i. A petition presented by Cllr Mason, on behalf of businesses in the city, regarding pavement cafes and the city centre economy.¹
- ii. A petition presented by Cllr Warters, on behalf of local residents, regarding Tranby Avenue parking problems.²
- iii. A petition presented by Cllr Warters, on behalf of local residents, in relation to reducing the HMO thresholds.³
- iv. A petition presented by Cllr Myers, on behalf of local residents, in relation to calling for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire in Gaza and Israel.⁴
- v. A petition presented by Cllr Waller, on behalf of local residents, regarding resurfacing of Foxwood Lane between the junctions with Huntsman's Walk and Askham Lane to

complete the resurfacing which had been done in the section leading from Gale Lane to Huntsman’s Walk.⁵

- vi. A petition presented by Cllr Waller, on behalf of local residents, regarding resurfacing of Corlett Court road surface following the increasing number of potholes to follow on from repairs to Walker Drive and Spurr Court.⁶

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Add the petition regarding pavement cafes and the city centre economy to the petitions log for referral to CSCCSMC. | SS |
| 2. Add the petition regarding Tranby Avenue parking problems to the petitions log for referral to CSCCSMC. | SS |
| 3. Add the petition regarding reducing the HMO thresholds to the petitions log for referral to CSCCSMC. | SS |
| 4. Add the petition calling for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire in Gaza and Israel to the petitions log for referral to CSCCSMC. | MS |
| 5. Add the petition regarding resurfacing of Foxwood Lane between the junctions with Huntsman’s Walk and Askham Lane to complete the resurfacing which had been done in the section leading from Gale Lane to Huntsman’s Walk to the petitions log for referral to CSCCSMC. | SS |
| 6. Add the petition regarding resurfacing of Corlett Court road surface following the increasing number of potholes to follow on from repairs to Walker Drive and Spurr Court to the petitions log for referral to CSCCSMC. | SS |

75. CYC Scheme of Member Allowances: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (7:13 pm)

Council received a written report from the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer which presented the final report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in relation to the allowances payable to Members.

The Lord Mayor thanked the Panel for their hard work and commitment in producing their report and he invited the Chair of the IRP, David Dickson, to address the meeting prior to the recommendations being formally moved. In doing so, Mr Dickson

outlined the work carried out by the panel members and explained the principles underlying their final recommendations. He also thanked all the officers and Members that had supported them in undertaking their review.

The following recommendations contained in the report were then moved by Cllr Douglas and seconded by Cllr Steward.

“Council is asked to:

- (i) consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel;
- (ii) agree the proposals set out at paragraph 5 of the report;
- (iii) request the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential changes to the Scheme of Allowances for Members, as set out in the Constitution; and
- (iv) agree that paragraph 1.3 of Appendix 20 to the Constitution will not apply for the period 1 April 2023 to 7 May 2023 and for the 2024-25 Municipal Year.

Reason: To ensure the Council meets its statutory requirements relating to the independent review and provision of Members allowances.”

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. To note approval of the recommendations in the BR CYC Scheme of Member Allowances: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and take the appropriate action.

76. Report of Executive Leader, Questions, and Executive Recommendations (7:34 pm)

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

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

Free School Meals

From Cllr Fenton: Under the approach being pursued by the administration, can you please confirm your latest estimate when the rest of York's primary schools can expect free school meals to be offered to all pupils?

Response: It's been really heartening to work with the steering group and the front faces of the campaign, the Archbishop of York and the Captain of the York Valkyries, to help us to get going with the fund raising. We are in the process of going out to the high value donors within the city who can really start to bring in some substantial funding alongside smaller amounts that we will go live with later in the year. As far as a timeline goes, we will move towards getting the meals out to other schools. We are first of all putting it into areas of disadvantage and deprivation, so Westfield and Clifton, who are very much in need of free school meals. We are testing out what works. It's been interesting to look at the differences between free school lunches and breakfasts. So far headteachers have been very supportive of the breakfast idea. Bringing children into school early to eat together in a calm environment, we have persistent absentees back in school.

Supplementary from Cllr Fenton: In terms of the fund raising efforts as they stand, can you give us a quick update on where you are at the moment in terms of the level of funding that has been secured?

Supplementary Response: The work of the steering group has been requested to go to scrutiny later in the year. Budget funding from the council is enough to provide breakfasts at Burton Green and we also recently secured a commitment from our public health partners. We are moving into the next stage. I have been speaking to a fund raiser who has a great deal of contacts within the city on the high net worth elements, so we hope to accelerate that but we are doing it in a financially responsible way.

Supplementary from Cllr Warters: Is the council funding being supported by third-party contributions, and if so, by how much?

Supplementary Response: As far as the businesses and community fund raising goes, we wanted to bring in the amount to get the pilot going. That has been done and funding has been secured for two years at Burton Green Primary School, which is around £40,000. We also have the funding for Westfield Primary School as well, which is ongoing, and committed to through the medium term financial strategy for the period of our administration. The health funding is for a period of one year at this point in time. We are doing silent fund raising from the community at University

of York. We are starting in a proper and appropriate way. It's looking very positive but it's not easy. It's a city wide approach and our partners in the University of York and University of Leeds are looking at the different models, the lunches versus the breakfasts, how it works and the best approach to take, so we can move forward in a measured way.

Security Barriers

From Cllr Rowley: The security barrier placed on the main arterial route of Spurriergate to Low Ousegate has not functioned at all for the last 6-8 weeks. When will that be working and how serviceable are the other barriers we have in the city?

Response: It has been rather disappointing and frustrating for all of us to see that they are not working quite as well as we would have been expecting. My understanding is that they work as a system and not all of them are connected up yet. Not until that is done can they all work independently. Cllr Kilbane tells me that it is in process but at this point in time we don't have a definitive date. We can get you more information on that.

B – Executive Recommendation

Cllr Douglas moved, and Cllr Kilbane seconded, the following recommendation contained in Minute 101 of the Executive meeting held on 20 February 2024.

Minute 101 York Tourism Strategy

Recommended:

- i. Thanked the Tourist Advisory Board (TAB) for their work in preparing a new York Tourism Strategy and recommended the strategy to Full Council so that it can be adopted on behalf of the city.¹

Reason: To recognise the work undertaken by TAB and industry partners in preparing the strategy, and to support the growth of the York economy and the Council's priorities of affordability, environment, equalities and human rights, and health and wellbeing.

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

Resolved: That the above recommendation be approved.¹

[An adjournment took place between 8:08 pm and 8:26 pm]

Action Required

1. To note approval of the recommendation regarding the York Tourism Strategy and take the appropriate action. KD

77. Report of Deputy Leader and Questions (8:26 pm)

A written report was received from the Deputy Leader, Cllr Kilbane. 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:

Deputy Leader Report

From Cllr Rowley: What is the process to have your report removed from the agenda?

Response: It's not a question I can answer I'm afraid. I've no idea where we are up to with the constitutional reform.

From Cllr Ayre: Why didn't you bring a constitutional change to yesterday's Audit and Governance Committee to have it taken out.

Response: This is a helpful suggestion and we could bring it to the next one.

Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review

From Cllr Widdowson: Why are we changing the senior management structure now rather than waiting for the conclusions and recommendations from the peer review?

Response: The changes that are currently underway also come from a LGA review, so it's pretty much part of the same process.

Budget Setting Process

From Cllr Fenton: As we know the government provided some additional money. Can you set out some of the considerations that the Executive made about how York's share of that money could be used in terms of its assignment to reserves rather than to be used for adult social care and children, in order to free up other

money that had been assigned to address those pressures that could have potentially averted some of the cuts elsewhere.

Response: If you care to give a written question addressed to Cllr Lomas, I'm sure an answer will be provided to you.

78. Motions on Notice (8:32 pm)

(i) Making York a Trauma Informed City

Moved by Cllr Whitcroft, seconded by Cllr Steels-Walshaw.

“Council notes:

- Trauma can be experienced through exposure to emotionally distressing experiences. This could be a single incident, or prolonged exposure to difficult and upsetting circumstances. Sources of trauma can be varied and complex;
- Understanding of trauma and the impact it has on survivors is well established, highlighting that its effect can be significant, wide-ranging and affect many aspects of people's lives;
- 47% of children in the UK will experience at least one Adverse Childhood Experience, such as physical or sexual abuse or neglect, and 1 in 10 people in the UK will experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at some time in their life;
- Trauma can result in increased likelihood of a range of negative outcomes including lower life expectancy, increased likelihood of being diagnosed with a mental illness and a heightened risk of death by suicide;
- Certain groups, including people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, women, those who're care-experienced, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities and the LGBTQ+ community are disproportionately affected by trauma;
- Organisations that adopt Trauma-Informed approaches provide more positive experiences for trauma survivors;
- Scotland, Humber & North Yorkshire Health & Care Partnership, numerous NHS Trusts and many local authorities have adopted Trauma-Informed approaches as best practice;
- Under the Humber and North Yorkshire Health & Care Partnership, there are four phases to becoming Trauma-

Informed: Trauma Aware, Trauma Sensitive, Trauma Responsive and Trauma-Informed;

- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) used their own Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) protocol up until 2018, which identified people exhibiting many types of typical trauma responses under the label of BPD+, despite this not being a nationally recognised diagnosis.

Council believes:

- People who have, or who are experiencing, trauma can experience many barriers when accessing services. These can be complex and sometimes misinterpreted by professionals;
- Services or organisations can unintentionally retraumatise or cause additional trauma to service-users. Implementing a Trauma-Informed framework reduces the risk of this occurring;
- Trauma-informed approaches benefit both trauma survivors and frontline staff;
- Service users and staff must have a voice in the decision-making process of the organisation and its services;
- Consistent and thorough implementation of a Trauma-Informed approach is an important way for schools and education settings to better understand and respond to the needs of children and young people;
- Successful implementation of Trauma-Informed approaches in the city will require a multi-agency approach and buy-in from external organisations;
- The use of the BPD+ protocol in the city by TEWV NHS Trust meant many people with severe trauma were provided with inadequate care. Though TEWV stopped officially using the BPD+ protocol in 2020, many residents accessing services more recently continue to report - through Healthwatch York and other voluntary and community sector organisations - the use of processes linked to the BPD+ protocol.

Council resolves:

- To take steps to become a Trauma-Informed City and commits to working in partnership to embed Trauma-

Informed frameworks across services and partner agencies, working in co-production with trauma survivors;

- To ask the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care and Executive colleagues to explore the introduction of a Trauma-Informed framework across Council services;
- To request the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care explore the introduction of training for staff and councillors, including e-learning modules, that enables City of York Council to become a Trauma-Informed organisation;
- To work with partner organisations to implement a city-wide approach to raising awareness of the impact of trauma and how becoming Trauma-Informed can help to support trauma survivors;
- To consider the implications of making it a requirement in commissioned contracts and services that partner organisations can demonstrate they have, or are implementing, a Trauma-Informed framework;
- To recommend the Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee request a report from TEWV NHS Trust on its prior application and progress in moving beyond the use of the BPD+ protocol, an assessment of current staff understanding and the outlining of any trauma-informed approaches it is implementing.”

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.¹

(ii) Safeguarding future library provision

Moved by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Knight.

“Council notes:

- The decision by Budget Council to reduce funding for York Explore by £300,000 in 2024/25
- The petition signed by 3246 residents, presented at Budget Council on 22 February 2024, expressing opposition to this cut

- The statement made by the Chief Executive of York Explore at Budget Council on 22 February 2024, on behalf of the Board, which set out the positive difference that York's libraries make to communities across the city
- The significant investment the previous Lib Dem led administration put into our library services and buildings
- The 18 January 2024 independent review of English public libraries that held up York's 15 year contract with Explore as an exemplar in long term planning to other local authorities
- The 26 October 2017 motion "Library Services in York" that urged the executive to commit "that there will be no reduction in the total number of staffed libraries across the city.

Council believes:

- That York's libraries are much more than 'books and cake' – they provide a range of services and support which benefits people of all ages and all backgrounds
- That City of York Council must adhere to its contractual obligations in respect of its relationship with York Explore, and all other organisations with whom it has contracts
- That there is considerable concern as to what impact the cut in funding for York Explore agreed for 2024/25 and proposed for 2025/26 will have on the scope and type of services that York Explore will be able to provide in future years.

Council resolves:

- To ask the relevant Executive Member to engage proactively in the next three months with York Explore, service users and, through Scrutiny, elected members of all parties in order to ensure that future library provision in York continues to meet residents' needs and expectations
- To ask the Executive to work with York Explore to ensure that there will be no reduction in the total number of staffed libraries across the city
- To ask the Executive to work with York Explore to ensure that the mobile library will not be cut."

Cllr Coles then moved, and Cllr Lomas seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“ Under Council Notes:’

- insert the following new 1st bullet point:
 - The £34 million black hole in council finances up to 2027 and the very real risks to future Library Services should the council ever have to issue a Section 114 notice;
- In the 1st bullet point (now the 2nd) after ‘2024/25’ insert ‘in order to protect the long-term financial stability of the Council;’
- In the 4th bullet point (now the 5th) after ‘buildings’ insert ‘with capital investment maintained and continued by the current Labour administration;’
- Insert the following new 6th bullet point:
 - Significant changes to the financial landscape of Local Authorities that saw a real terms cut to York of 50% in Government Grant/its Business Rates retention replacement between 2011 and 2024;

In the 5th bullet point, (now the 7th)

- delete ‘independent’ and insert ‘national’
- After ‘libraries’ insert ‘led by Conservative Life Peer, Baroness Sanderson of Welton,’
- After ‘Explore’ insert ‘- signed in 2019 -’
- After ‘ local authorities’ insert ‘yet made scant reference to local authority funding that libraries depend on;’

Under ‘Council believes:’ 1st bullet point

- After ‘books and cake’ delete ‘they provide a range of services and support which benefits people of all ages and all backgrounds’ and insert ‘and there is an opportunity to develop the range of services and support they offer to reduce health inequalities across the city, address digital exclusion and tackle loneliness and isolation for people of all ages and backgrounds;’

Under ‘Council resolves’

In the 1st bullet point,

- After ‘Executive Member’ insert ‘and council officers’.
- After the first ‘to’ insert ‘continue’
- Change ‘engage’ to ‘engaging’

- After 'expectations' insert 'including reforming the mobile library service and retaining the number of staffed libraries and library services, including to outlying areas not covered by Gateway or Explore libraries across the city;'
- Add in the following new 2nd bullet point
- To request the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care and the Leader of the Council write to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Arts Council, to clarify the council's financial position and to reassure them of the council's commitment to York's libraries and archives;
- Delete the last two bullet points 'To ask the Executive to work with York Explore to ensure that there will be no reduction in the total number of staffed libraries across the city' and 'To ask the Executive to work with York Explore to ensure that the mobile library will not be cut.'"

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

"Council notes:

- The £34 million black hole in council finances up to 2027 and the very real risks to future Library Services should the council ever have to issue a Section 114 notice;
- The decision by Budget Council to reduce funding for York Explore by £300,000 in 2024/25 in order to protect the long-term financial stability of the Council;
- The petition signed by 3246 residents, presented at Budget Council on 22 February 2024, expressing opposition to this cut;
- The statement made by the Chief Executive of York Explore at Budget Council on 22 February 2024, on behalf of the Board, which set out the positive difference that York's libraries make to communities across the city;
- The significant investment the previous Lib Dem led administration put into our library services and buildings, with

capital investment maintained and continued by the current Labour administration;

- Significant changes to the financial landscape of Local Authorities that saw a real terms cut to York of 50% in Government Grant/its Business Rates retention replacement between 2011 and 2024;
- The 18 January 2024 national review of English public libraries, led by Conservative Life Peer, Baroness Sanderson of Welton, that held up York's 15 year contract with Explore - signed in 2019 - as an exemplar in long term planning to other local authorities, yet made scant reference to local authority funding that libraries depend on;
- The 26 October 2017 motion "Library Services in York" that urged the executive to commit "that there will be no reduction in the total number of staffed libraries across the city.

Council believes:

- That York's libraries are much more than 'books and cake' and there is an opportunity to develop the range of services and support they offer to reduce health inequalities across the city, address digital exclusion and tackle loneliness and isolation for people of all ages and backgrounds;
- That City of York Council must adhere to its contractual obligations in respect of its relationship with York Explore, and all other organisations with whom it has contracts;
- That there is considerable concern as to what impact the cut in funding for York Explore agreed for 2024/25 and proposed for 2025/26 will have on the scope and type of services that York Explore will be able to provide in future years.

Council resolves:

- To ask the relevant Executive Member and council officers to continue engaging proactively in the next three months with York Explore, service users and, through Scrutiny, elected members of all parties in order to ensure that future library

provision in York continues to meet residents' needs and expectations, including reforming the mobile library service and retaining the number of staffed libraries and library services, including to outlying areas not covered by Gateway or Explore libraries across the city;

- To request the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care and the Leader of the Council write to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Arts Council, to clarify the council's financial position and to reassure them of the council's commitment to York's libraries and archives.

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

Resolved: That the above motion, as amended, be approved.²

(iii) Affordable Housing Motion

Moved by Cllr Steward, seconded by Cllr Rowley.

“Council notes:

1. The continuing, unacceptable, reality of too many people unable to afford to buy homes.
2. That many reasons for this are beyond Local Authorities' remits but there remain big influences they can still have.

Council notes ongoing progress on the Local Plan and believes getting a valid Plan signed off remains the biggest step forward for the council to help meet housing demand, including further formalising Affordable Housing policies.

Whilst in no way undermining the policies in the Local Plan, council believes there is always more that can and should be done to help people own homes. To further this, council believes the relevant officers, scrutiny and executive should examine elsewhere in the county and look to broaden the affordable housing criteria to be based on residents paying no more than a set percentage of their incomes in mortgages, rather than houses be valued at a more traditional reduced level of market value.”

An amendment to the above motion had been moved by Cllr Pavlovic and formerly accepted by the Conservative Group as follows:

“Under ‘Council notes’:

- Point 1, after ‘homes’ insert ‘nor rent homes in the private rented sector, placing increased pressure on the social housing waiting list;’
- Insert a new point 2 as follows,
 - ‘That unaffordable housing impacts on York’s future prosperity as fewer young professionals, families and essential workers can access suitable accommodation;’
- In the 2nd bullet point (now the 3rd) delete ‘That many reasons for this are’ and insert ‘That the property market remains predominantly market-driven and therefore’

In the final paragraph,

- Split the two sentences into two separate paragraphs.
- In the last sentence, after ‘council,’ delete the word ‘believes’ and insert ‘resolves:’ then insert a bullet point and add before ‘the relevant officers’ ‘That following adoption of York’s Local Plan’
- after the word ‘examine’ insert ‘examples’
- change ‘county’ to ‘country’ and insert after ‘country’ ‘that seek to make housing more affordable for their residents, including through any powers available at Mayoral Combined Authority level;’
- Then insert a second bullet point:
- delete ‘and look to’ and insert ‘This should include consideration of’
- add ‘ing’ to ‘broaden’
- after ‘criteria to’ insert ‘include’ and delete ‘be based on’
- Insert a full stop after ‘mortgages’ then insert ‘It should also compare such an approach with existing council policy of homes for sale’
- delete ‘rather than houses be’
- insert after ‘market value’ ‘arising from s106 developer contributions’.
- Insert the following additional third bullet point:
 - ‘Further, to request Executive reviews the council’s policy on developer social housing contributions, with an assessment of whether adding new council homes through this mechanism would improve the supply and

quality of nationally-defined affordable homes to York residents.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED.

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“Council notes:

1. The continuing, unacceptable, reality of too many people unable to afford to buy homes nor rent homes in the private rented sector, placing increased pressure on the social housing waiting list;
2. That unaffordable housing impacts on York’s future prosperity as fewer young professionals, families and essential workers can access suitable accommodation;
3. That the property market remains predominantly market-driven and therefore beyond Local Authorities’ remits but there remain big influences they can still have.

Council notes ongoing progress on the Local Plan and believes getting a valid Plan signed off remains the biggest step forward for the council to help meet housing demand, including further formalising Affordable Housing policies.

Whilst in no way undermining the policies in the Local Plan, council believes there is always more that can and should be done to help people own homes.

To further this, council resolves:

- That following adoption of York’s Local Plan, the relevant officers, scrutiny and executive should examine examples elsewhere in the country that seek to make housing more affordable for their residents, including through any powers available at Mayoral Combined Authority level;
- This should include consideration of broadening the affordable housing criteria to include residents paying no more than a set percentage of their incomes in mortgages. It should also compare such an approach with existing council policy of homes for sale valued at a more traditional reduced

level of market value, arising from s106 developer contributions;

- Further, to request Executive reviews the council's policy on developer social housing contributions, with an assessment of whether adding new council homes through this mechanism would improve the supply and quality of nationally-defined affordable homes to York residents."

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

Resolved: That the above motion, as amended, be approved.³

(iv) My Vote, My Voice

Moved by Cllr Baxter, seconded by Cllr Rose.

"Council welcomes the My Voice, My Vote campaign promoting the right to vote and the removal of barriers to voting for the 1.5m learning disabled and 700,000 autistic adults living in the UK.

It notes:

- 40% of the population don't know these groups have an equal right to vote;
- 80% of people feel that polling stations are inaccessible for disabled people as a whole;
- only 12% of disabled voters were aware of their legal entitlements during the 2023 local elections, including available polling station support, in the wake of new rules around voter identification;
- the excellent work of council officers in ensuring relevant council teams and contracted services working with vulnerable adults explain how they can register to vote.

Council believes everyone should have a right to vote and disability and difference should be no barrier to voter participation.

Further, it believes democracy is best exercised when all groups are represented and that low turnout for one demographic indicates disenfranchisement.

Council resolves to request the Returning Officer:

- considers the city’s polling stations for any accessibility improvements;
- considers how greater awareness of voting rights through social media activity can be advanced, particularly for hard-to-reach groups;
- provides as much detail as possible on the different roles for which individuals stand for election, to encourage greater voter participation, subject to relevant legislation.

And requests the Chief Operating Officer write to the relevant Minister within the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on:

- ways to make registering to vote easier, while maintaining the integrity of the electoral process, in order to increase voter participation.”

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.⁴

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. To note approval of the motion on making York a trauma informed city and take the appropriate action. | PR |
| 2. To note approval of the motion on safeguarding future library provision (as amended) and take the appropriate action. | PS |
| 3. To note approval of the motion on affordable housing (as amended) and take the appropriate action. | NF |
| 4. To note approval of the motion on my vote, my voice and take the appropriate action. | BR |

79. Questions to the Leader or Executive Members (9:36 pm)

Members were invited to question the Leader or Executive Members. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members, and replied to as indicated:

Questions to Cllr Kilbane, Executive Member for Economy and Transport

From Cllr Crawshaw: The unanimous position of the Planning Committee was that the ring road should be dualled but that it was absolutely imperative that we capture all the additional benefits in terms of taking traffic out of the city centre and out of the villages but also all of the active travel elements and public transport benefits that could be found as well. Unfortunately, the committee was unable to condition those within the approval and so we added an informative to be agreed by myself and the vice-chair. I'd really like to hear the ways in which you will work to ensure all of those benefits will be delivered?

Response: Thank you to everybody on the Planning Committee. There are things that you can and can't do within planning law. We inherited the scheme and we took it forward as we promised we would do. We addressed the issues that Active Travel England had raised with the scheme and the things missing from it. We took it as far as we could without unnecessarily delaying it further. The Local Plan, which is going through adoption, is contingent on the dualling of the ring road. What we have to do now is to take the results of the city wide local transport consultation, and they have been overwhelmingly in support of our sustainable travel in the city, and make sure that we use the opportunity that dualling the ring road brings to tie in the advantages of moving to a more sustainable means of travel. We need to make sure it takes traffic out of the city centre and it will be down to this authority, the subsequent authority, and the new incoming elected Mayor to ultimately maximise the benefits.

From Cllr Fenton: I have been in correspondence with an officer recently regarding a grit bin review that's ongoing in terms of the location of grit bins around the city. Will Councillors have the opportunity to engage in that review?

Response: Absolutely.

Supplementary from Cllr Fenton: Are you able to set a timescale on when that opportunity might arise?

Response: If you can email me the details of the officer concerned I will then respond to that email.

From Cllr Nicholls: There was a trial agreed some months ago for 20mph speed limits, any updates on that implementation?

Response: The parish council in Bishopthorpe, and the local councillor, submitted a request for 20mph speed limits around the whole village, which I was very happy to grant. It will be used as a

trial to see what the impact is on the village. If it works in the village then it could be rolled out to other areas who are requesting them. We need to act on this now. If you could email me, and I will pick this up with officers.

Supplementary from Cllr Rowley: Dunnington also requested that 20mph trial as well, so can I assume that Dunnington will be high on the list of priorities?

Response: Yes, Dunnington and Poppleton are in the queue like most villages. The issues we are dealing with is that we are not sure when the new plans for drivers comes out from your administration and whether they will allow 20mph zones to cover whole areas, so if you could do some lobbying on behalf of residents that would be great. There are also issues around enforcement and highway processes that we are working through, and part of the Bishopthorpe trial is to make sure we have worked through them properly before we roll it out further.

Questions to Cllr Kent and Cllr Ravilious – Executive Members for Environment and Climate Emergency

From Cllr Healey: Following the trial to improve air quality on Gillygate, can you please confirm if this trial found that air pollution issues merely moved to other parts of the city as standing traffic increased on Lord Mayor's Walk and other nearby roads. Will you please commit to sharing the information obtained through the trial and what plans are now to be taken forward?

Response: It was a very short trial and we couldn't draw conclusions from it. It was just for two weeks so there is no way we can say if that would change the air quality on Gillygate. It was simply a test of whether altering the traffic signals had an adverse effect on other roads in the city and what we found was that we could alter the traffic signals on Gillygate and not have an adverse effect on other roads in the city, so it showed that we could try to do that to see if we can then improve the air quality. We are now looking as if we can roll this out into a longer trial and we will include increase monitoring on other roads to see if air quality changes across, not just Gillygate, but other roads in the surrounding area. We will also be looking at health impacts with the Director of Public Health to see on particularly poor pollution days whether there are increases in hospital admissions. We are going to do a really thorough study to see if we can improve the poor air quality on Gillygate, which can't carry on.

From Cllr Kelly: Can you tell us what's happening with York's climate commission and what direction you expect it to take going forward?

Response: On 11 January 2024 over 100 organisations, partners, businesses and voluntary groups came to the Merchant Adventurers Hall. It was hosted for free by them and they are committed to their own climate action plan, which includes a ground floor heat pump and solar panels. It was a fantastic collaborative day that allowed people to put themselves forward and to take their organisations to join the city to meet our net zero and nature recovery targets. Out of that day, 10 working groups emerged ranging from waste, energy, environment, food and nature recovery. Several have already met and each group had set their own actions to take place over the remainder of this year to support and go even further than the council. It's a work in progress and is a co-design, and so far it's been a really encouraging productive collaborative partnership. We will be meeting again in January next year to celebrate the progress been made and steps taken.

Question to Cllr Webb, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

From Cllr Whitcroft: I'd like to welcome the new home for children in care in the Fishergate Ward that was opened by this administration on Friday. What's happening with the Together We Can programme and what's the plan for children in care in York in the future?

Response: Thank you to all the Members across the chamber that took the time to visit our home on Friday and to all the council officers who had been working incredibly hard to progress policy and make the changes that we need to see in our city for the better. We are working with our colleagues in health to deliver the Together We Can programme for our young people. It's about helping them to thrive, supporting their development and wellbeing. We are going to have council staff working from the home. There will be no labels, there will be people who are supporting young people in that home. Those young people will know them, they will know the council workers who are in there with them. It provides a home for people who are really vulnerable and helps them stay in York. I do really welcome everyone's support for this and long may it continue.

80. **Report of Executive Member (9:54 pm)**

A written report was received from Cllr Pavlovic, Executive Member Housing, Planning and Safer Communities.

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

Homeless Strategy

From Cllr Widdowson: In the now scrapped report into what happened with the Salvation Army, it states that you didn't want the contract to end, is that the case?

Response: I have offered both Cllr Vassie and Cllr Myers the opportunity to input into the Homeless Strategy before it goes out for consultation. It's immaterial whether I did or didn't support the decision. The decision to end the Salvation Army contract was a legal decision that was made on the advice of our statutory officers who said that the contract should have ended in November 2022 and it was extended to 31 March 2023, and that it could not therefore be further extended. We were given very clear guidance by our legal officer and by our Section 151 Officer that it could not be extended and that is why the decision was made by those Executive Members responsible for finance, and that decision had to be supported.

Supplementary from Cllr Widdowson: The report then went on to say that you subsequently found a prejudicial interest and you excused yourself. Is it true that you didn't have a current prejudicial interest and that you didn't want to be present?

Response: It was not a case of whether I wanted to be present or didn't want to be present. The decision was given on the advice of the officers that a legal process had been started and therefore that had to be seen through. My prejudicial interest, which I had sort of declared at numerous housing scrutiny meetings during the last administration when the Salvation Army came up, was that I was part of the resettlement process.

Supplementary from Cllr Crawshaw: In future, if you were dealing with a long term contract for a supplier to deliver services for the homelessness and you were aware that the contract was coming towards the end of its time, do you believe that you would enter into a re-procurement process in a timely way to ensure that the contract does not need extending and does not come to an end in any way that is detrimental to the people of the city?

Response: The last administration had two years of planning for a new resettlement strategy. They did not reach any sort of consensus about any services including those that were commissioned nor did they have a viable strategy that they could agree with and therefore, had they spent the two years whilst that contract was still ongoing we wouldn't be in this position now.

Gypsy and traveller provision

From Cllr Rowley: It's now nearly five years since an evicted family from the Osbaldwick travellers site were instructed by a City of York Council officer to take residence in a layby on public highway meaning that North Yorkshire Police could do nothing to move them on. What advice do I and Cllr Warters say to the residents of Dunnington and Holtby who are now five years into this fiasco?

Response: There is a gypsy and traveller provision within the Local Plan and they will just have to wait for that to take its course. We have just gone through the Local Plan hearing in respect of gypsy and traveller provision and we expect the inspectors report anytime soon. We will then look at the options depending on what they say.

Supplementary from Cllr Warters: Given the recent Local Plan hearings into the gypsy and traveller matters, what conclusion do you envisage?

Response: I very much hope that we will have a Local Plan that will be ready for adoption shortly. We are dependent on the inspectorate report on gypsy and traveller provision which was lacking in the draft submitted Local Plan. The draft Local Plan was submitted in 2018, 6 years and counting with still no resolution. It isn't the Plan we would have brought forward but we have to work with what we were given. I very much hope that they will come back with a sound assessment that leaves us no longer in open season for speculative development.

81. **Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (10:05 pm)**

A written report was received from Cllr Fenton, Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee, on the work of the committee.

82. Police, Fire and Crime Panel Amendments (10:07 pm)

The following recommendation contained in the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer at page 90 of the agenda papers was moved by Cllr Douglas and seconded by Cllr Kilbane.

“That Members agree the revised Arrangements for the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel as provided at Appendix A to the report.

Reason: The Panel must have Arrangements setting out its legal role and responsibilities and which accurately reflect the shifting accountabilities from Commissioner to Mayor, from 7 May 2024. The council is therefore requested to agree the revised Arrangements ahead of this transition.”

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 approval of the recommendation in the report regarding the Police, Fire and Crime Panel Amendments and take appropriate action. BR

83. 2024/25 Corporate Calendar (10:07 pm)

The following recommendations contained in the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer at pages 107 and 108 of the agenda papers was moved by Cllr Douglas and seconded by Cllr Pavlovic.

“That:

- i. The Corporate Calendar of meetings for 2024/25, attached as Annex A to the report, be approved.
- ii. That the Director of Governance be authorised to make any changes to the Calendar as may prove necessary from time to time.

Reasons:

- i. To provide a framework for the democratic and decision-making functions which will underpin delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.
- ii. To ensure that the calendar of meetings is implemented to assist with the forward planning and better management of meetings."

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. To note approval of the recommendations in the BR report regarding the 2024/25 Corporate Calendar and take the appropriate action.

84. Proposed Changes to the Composition and Quorum of Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee (10:08 pm)

The Lord Mayor invited the Monitoring Officer to address the meeting prior to the recommendations being formally moved. In doing so, the Monitoring Officer confirmed the recommendation had been endorsed by Audit and Governance Committee on Wednesday 20 March 2024 and he drew Members attention to a typographical error in table 5 on page 135 of the agenda pack in that 'Lose 1' should appear in the Labour column rather than the Conservative column.

The following recommendation contained in the report at page 128 of the agenda papers was then moved by Cllr Douglas and seconded by Cllr Kilbane.

"Subject to endorsement by Audit and Governance Committee, Council is recommended to approve the amendment to the Constitution through the inclusion in Article 11 of the proposed additional wording as set in paragraph 6 of the report, as below

- 1.3 The Committee shall comprise five members and shall have a quorum of three members.

Reason: In order to remedy an error in the Constitution, to ensure that the Council can lawfully and expeditiously carry on its business.”

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 approval of the recommendation in the report regarding the proposed changes to the composition and quorum of Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee and take the appropriate action. BR

Cllr Cullwick

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.33 pm and concluded at 10.18 pm]

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City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in the Guildhall, York on Thursday, 23 May 2024, starting at 11.00 am.

Present: The outgoing Lord Mayor (Cllr Christopher Cullwick) in the Chair for the first part of the meeting, the incoming Lord Mayor (Cllr Margaret Wells) in the Chair for the second part of the meeting, and the following Councillors:

Acomb Ward	Bishopthorpe Ward
Lomas Rose	Nicholls
Clifton Ward	Copmanthorpe Ward
Myers	Steward
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	Fishergate Ward
Fenton Mason Widdowson	Whitcroft Wilson
Fulford and Heslington Ward	Guildhall Ward
Ravilious	Clarke Melly Merrett
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	Heworth Ward
Cuthbertson Hollyer Pearson	B Burton Douglas Webb
Heworth Without Ward	Holgate Ward
Ayre	Kent Steels-Walshaw Taylor

Hull Road Ward

Baxter
Kelly
Pavlovic

Huntington and New Earswick
Ward

Orrell
Runciman

Micklegate Ward

J Burton
Crawshaw
Kilbane

Osbalwick and Derwent Ward

Rowley BEM

Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward

Waudby

Rural West York Ward

Hook
Knight

Strensall Ward

Fisher
Healey

Westfield Ward

Coles
Nelson
Waller

Wheldrake Ward

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Smalley, Wann and Warters.

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

2. Appointment of Lord Mayor

Councillor Steward moved, Councillor Waudby seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Councillor Margaret Wells be elected Lord Mayor of the City of York for the ensuing municipal year.

3. Qualification of Lord Mayor

Councillor Margaret Wells signified Acceptance of the Office of the Lord Mayor of the City of York, subscribed the Declaration of such acceptance and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by the law in that behalf.

4. Appointment of Sheriff

Councillor Rowley moved, Councillor Fenton seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Fiona Fitzpatrick be elected Sheriff of the City of York for the ensuing municipal year.

5. Qualification of Sheriff

Fiona Fitzpatrick signified Acceptance of the Office of the Lord Sheriff of the City of York, subscribed the Declaration of such acceptance and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by the law in that behalf.

6. Appointment of Deputy Lord Mayor

Councillor Wells as Lord Mayor moved, Councillor Orrell seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Councillor Christopher Cullwick be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

7. Qualification of Deputy Lord Mayor

Councillor Christopher Cullwick made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of York and took the Affirmation of Allegiance prescribed by law.

8. Under Sheriff

The Sheriff advised Council that Janet Looker had been chosen to serve as Under Sheriff during this year of office, and thanked her for undertaking this service to the City.

9. Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress

Councillor Mason moved, Councillor Pavlovic seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for their services to the city during the past municipal year.

10. Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Sheriff and Sheriff's Consort

Councillor Widdowson moved, Councillor Waller seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Sheriff and Sheriff's Consort for their services to the city during the past municipal year.

11. Election of the Council Leader

Councillor Whitcroft moved, and Councillor Melly seconded, that Councillor Douglas be appointed as Council Leader. On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED and it was

Resolved: That Councillor Douglas be appointed as the elected Leader of City of York Council for the 2024/25 municipal year.

12. Formal Business of Council - Committee Arrangements, Allocation of Seats and Appointments to the Council Structure and Other Bodies for 2024/25, and Allocation of Motions

Cllr Douglas moved, and Cllr Kilbane seconded, the recommendations in respect of allocations to seats, appointments, and other matters, as set out in the report of the Director of Governance at pages 1-8 of the agenda papers, with reference to the annexes to that report and the revised annexes, B2, B3 and B4, in the Agenda Supplement.

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

Resolved:

- (i) That the allocation of seats in accordance with the arrangements set out in Annex A to the report be approved.
- (ii) That the approval of future changes to group appointments be delegated to the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.
- (iii) That the Executive appointments and the respective portfolios to be approved by the elected Leader of the Council (Annex B1) be noted.
- (iv) That the group nominations to Committees and other bodies, as well as appointments to Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as set out in the report and its annexes, together with details of any nominations and appointments which were circulated prior to the meeting, be approved, in light of the Council's duty to give effect to group nominations.
- (v) That the political balance requirements in respect of the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation place, as noted in Annex B4 to the report, be waived.
- (vi) That the proposed allocation of motions for consideration at Ordinary Full Council meetings for the period 2024-2027 be agreed; and

- (vii) That it be noted that, in the event that the Leader of the Council notifies the Monitoring Officer of any changes to the Executive Portfolios, the Monitoring Officer will update the Council's Constitution accordingly.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's statutory and constitutional requirements.

Cllr Margaret Wells

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 11.00 am and concluded at 12.19 pm]

Leader of the Council Report to Full Council 17th July 2024

Our city, Our community

I would like to start this report by welcoming the new Right Honourable Lord Mayor of York, Councillor Margaret Wells to the first Full Council meeting of her term. I wish her and her civic party all the best for the coming year. It has been a joy and honour to have already attended a number of events with the Lord Mayor through the past weeks and to see the warm welcome she has received from our communities across York. I would also like to thank the previous Lord Mayor, Councillor Chris Cullwick, and his civic party for their service of the previous civic year. They worked tremendously hard for the people of York, did a fantastic job of representing us across the city and I know were highly valued by the numerous communities and organisations they visited in the period.

I would also like to mark and honour the recent passing of Honorary Alderman Brian Watson. Brian was a highly dedicated and respected public servant to York as a councillor for thirty-six years and then an Honorary Alderman. He will be sadly missed as was highlighted by the civic community of York, friends and family that attended his funeral at All Saints Church, High Ousegate in early July. I know we all send Marcia, his wife, and the rest of his family our most sincere condolences.

The past three months since early April have been dominated by two election periods. The election of the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire that took place on the 2nd May 2024 and the General Election that took place on 4th July. The business of the Council has continued through the period and I would like to send my thanks to all the Council staff who have worked ceaselessly to allow both of these hugely important elections to take place. The workload both for the Council's Electoral Services team and the broader officer corps cannot be underestimated particularly for a snap election such as that called unexpectedly at the end of May. We now have Mayor David Skaith (Labour), Rachael Maskell MP for York Central (Labour), Luke Charters MP for York Outer (Labour) and Councillor John Moroney (Hull Road, Labour) elected or re-elected to office. We move into a new era of a Labour government with a huge working majority in Westminster. The alignment of a Labour national government, Mayor for our region, Council and MPs brings an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate delivery on the big issues that matter most to our communities:

- The building of affordable homes to buy and rent alongside the essential infrastructure that make communities fantastic places to live.
- Improved access to health services including mental health services, GP appointments and access to dentists.
- Improved water quality in our local rivers
- Free breakfast clubs in primary schools
- Investment in climate emergency mitigations, secure, well paid jobs of the future.
- Tackling the cost of living crisis in our communities.

During this incredibly busy period I have also been honoured to attend events including the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Askham Bryan College, commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day at York Minster on 6th June, the York Pride launch and parade in mid-June and Armed Forces Week celebrations including flag flying at the Mansion House and Armed Forces Day 2024 Football Fest at the Community Stadium on 6th July. The breadth and depth of community celebration, commemoration and action is humbling, and I'd like to thank everyone who works so hard to make our great institutions, venues and events so inclusive and welcoming to residents of our city and visitors alike.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to make everyone aware of the fact that York will be hosting Yorkshire Day, in partnership with the Yorkshire Society on 1st August. This will bring almost 100 civic parties together in our city to celebrate Yorkshire in all it's finest regalia. Part of the celebrations will be a procession of Yorkshire's civic parties from the Mansion House to the Minster for a celebratory service. I look forward to welcoming, alongside the Lord Mayor, everyone to our fine city. I'm sure it will be a day to remember and one of the highlights of the summer.

Delivering for our city

Blue Badge ban reversal and improvements to city centre access

Further improvements to city centre access for Blue Badge holders were implemented on the Blake Street and Lendal loop in May. Parking bays for both Blue Badge holders, allowing parking for longer than three hours, and business loading are now available on both streets. This action has enabled both Mayor making and Annual Council held in May 2024 to take place at the Guildhall for the first time in a number of years. A widely celebrated improvement to the accessibility of our city.

Human Rights and Equalities Board is reinstated

The Human Rights and Equalities Board (HREB) held its first meeting in April. This followed on from a period of rebuilding relationships since my administration took over in May 2023. Relationships with city partners had been damaged by the decisions made by the previous administration around the Blue Badge ban in the city centre. Executive members have worked with the Human Rights City Network Executive to re-write the HREB Terms of reference to ensure there is now a mechanism for the Network to escalate an issue should they believe that a decision or action by the Council is incompatible with Human Rights. The first piece of work by the HREB has been to consider the York Human Rights Indicator Report 2023 released in the spring. City of York officers and partners across the city are now building an action plan to tackle the recommendations outlined within the report.

York's Transport Strategy

Earlier in the year the Council consulted with over 2000 residents, businesses and visitors on York's Transport Strategy. It was the largest transport engagement exercise in the city for over a decade and the findings have been invaluable. We were pleased to receive widespread support for our ten policy focus areas, and consensus for a transport strategy which enables active travel and public transport and reduces car dependency.

Buses were a big topic of conversation and it is clear that people really want to use the bus but need more reliable and frequent services. Traffic congestion was the top concern, closely followed by air quality, the impact of traffic on climate change and road safety.

The views expressed during the consultation have fed directly into the final version of the transport strategy – due to come to Executive on 18th July – and we are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time to talk to us. We were left in no doubt about the importance of transport in York, people's passion for improving it and the difficulties many people currently experience travelling around, into and out of York.

Children, Young People and Education

Cllr. Webb was thrilled to attend the Children's Services Celebration Day Event in recognition of all good the practice currently carried out by staff, day in, day out. This is an example of my administration's commitment to supporting and recognising the hard work of staff and the ever-improving position of the Council's children's services.

The Council is currently developing a local youth strategy and York Youth Partnership. We recognise the value good, local youth provision has and by supporting different providers to work together when appropriate we are aiming to strengthen the sector in York.

We are also excited by the new Labour Government's manifesto commitment to create new Young Futures programme with a network of hubs across the country, reaching every community.

York has secured 'up to' £260k of funding from March 2024 to March 2026 for the Changemakers programme. The programme is run in partnership with the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) and four local authorities – Merton, Stockport, Wirral and City of York and is designed to build evidence based programmes for parenting interventions that have positive impacts for children.

Congratulations to Huntington Secondary School for their success in securing the first Silver Award for Healthy Schools Award in the City. This shows a real commitment to the health and wellbeing of the young people in their communities.

Door 84, a local community and youth hub have been working with York St John University to investigate how they can best serve young people and the wider community in the future. As part of this project, several young people who attend evening youth sessions at Door 84 interviewed local leaders and stakeholders about the importance of youth services and community services, and how Door 84 can best operate in this arena. I was pleased to be interviewed by the young people along with several other Labour councillors.

Gypsy and Traveller Action Plan

Executive members and officers have worked with the York Travellers Trust to co-produce an action plan that builds on previous work that was carried out through the Gypsy and Traveller Strategy. The action plan was approved at Executive on 9th May. It is an important piece of work that aims to ensure that Council Services consider the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities and make their services accessible to them.

A specific example of actions in this area was the launch of the Gypsy and Traveller Experiences of Education in York report.

I would like to extend my thanks to the young people, families, and staff at York Travellers Trust for their hard work in producing it. It is obviously

hard reading for the Council and other organisations across York but as an administration we have committed to support vulnerable groups and protect and promote people's rights. We will work to see this issue fed through into the City's wider work on anti-racism.

Combined Authority and Regional

Following the election of Mayor, David Skaith in early May I would like to welcome him to his role. Cllr Kilbane and I are very much looking forward to working with Mayor Skaith and our North Yorkshire Council colleagues, Cllrs Les and Dadd in our roles on the Mayoral Combined Authority. We have built strong working partnerships over the past year and are now ready and looking forward to delivering for the people of York and North Yorkshire.

On 9th May the Council hosted a City Leaders meeting inviting the Mayor to meet over 60 organisations and their representatives across the city. It was a hugely positive gathering with a wide range of discussions carried out outlining and concreting the priorities of the city. A pipeline of projects for York has now been created, taking into account the feedback from our City Leaders, our City of York Council scrutiny committee members, officers and Executive members. This has been a good example of cross city partnership and cross party elected member work. The finalised list of projects will be taken to my Executive Member Decision Making Session on 17th July before submission to the Combined Authority.

The Mayoral Combined Authority meetings including Scrutiny and Overview and Audit and Governance are now starting. I look forward to seeing us to build further on our strong working partnerships to see implementation of strategic transport, economic development, net zero and housing projects across all areas of York and North Yorkshire, from north to south and east to west.

Poverty Truth Commission

I have been honoured to work with colleagues across the city as a Civic Commissioner on the York Poverty Truth Commission since May 2023. In April the commission entered phase 3 with the holding of a next steps and celebration event at the Priory Street Centre.

The community commissioners, those living or that have lived in poverty chose the issue '**To be treated with kindness, understanding,**

honesty and respect when accessing services', as the one that would make the most difference to them whilst experiencing poverty.

The outcome of discussions between the commissioners, both civic and community, was the Charter for Organisational Standards – Together promoting dignity and respect for those facing poverty.

City of York Council is a signatory to the Charter and has committed to implementing the standards throughout our organisation's communications and contact with residents. This work is ongoing and will be monitored over the coming months. Please take the time to visit the Poverty Truth Commission's website at [York Poverty Truth Commission - York CVS](#) to read more about the Commission and our commitment to their work and Organisational Standards.

Local Plan Update

The final Local Plan consultation will be live by the date of July's Full Council. The consultation covers the policy for Gypsy and Traveller provision. The consultation has been set by the Local Plan Inspectors and will be live for six weeks. We expect this will be the last outstanding issue before we can progress to adopting the plan in the autumn.

Unfortunately, the York Local Plan is by several years, the longest running in planning history which means no sooner will it be adopted but will already be in need of review. We look forward to working with the new Labour government on their planning reforms to get the housing but equally importantly, the infrastructure in place so that we don't have soulless deserts but new, thriving communities.

To be able to meet the challenges that will be imposed, we also need to ensure that the planning system works and is streamlined to avoid long delays in applications. The planning department has been restructured and we are already seeing improvements. We have also agreed to develop a compact between the planning department and the West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce Property Forum so that all sides can work together in a constructive and productive manner. This should be ready for approval by the autumn.

Queen Street Bridge

The fantastic work over two weekends to construct a diversion road and demolish the main spans of Queen Street bridge was completed on time and to plan. We thank all residents who switched to sustainable forms of

transport on those weekends. You helped keep the roads free for those who needed to use them during the closure of Queen St and the city centre remained busy and open for business. We understand the considerable disruption the improvement works will inevitably cause and thank all those affected by them for their forbearance.

The demolition so far has created significant space which is really evident for everyone to see. Our contractors Sisk are currently installing a piling retaining wall to support the corner section of the city walls so that the remaining part of the bridge can be removed, and the final road layout be created. They are also busy planning the next phase of works in detail and will confirm when further road closures are needed to move onto the exciting phase of creating a new welcoming entrance to our city from the station, with more accessible and better sustainable transport links.

Council Budget 2025-26 Consultation

The Council continues to face unprecedented financial challenges and needs to make budget cuts of £30m over the next three years. This is despite York being one of the lowest funded councils in England and spending nearly £700 less per resident, per year than the average council. Over the next weeks the Council will launch its biggest budget consultation ever, asking residents, community groups, businesses and city leaders to identify those services they rely on most. By taking part in the consultation, residents will have the power to influence our priorities and ensure we keep targeting support where it is most needed.

Cllr Douglas, Leader

8 July 2024

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Deputy Council Leader Report, 17th July 2024

We all continue to be impressed by the Leader's energy, rigour, and enthusiasm for our great city and it continues to be my great honour and privilege to deputise for her when called upon to do so. She sets the bar high for herself and all the Council Executive Team, as residents quite rightly expect the best from their political representatives.

As Deputy Leader of the City of York Council I continue to represent the City on the Mayoral Combined Authority of York and North Yorkshire (YNYMCA). Since the election in May of the Labour Mayor we have continued to work well with our counterparts across the political divide in the best interests of the Region. At a time when politics is divisive, with some pursuing nasty self-serving agendas, the Combined Authority is a good example of how politicians can work together for the good of the communities they are elected to serve.

In May this year it was my honour to be elected Deputy Mayor for the YNYMCA, deputising for the Mayor at meetings he is unable to attend and supporting the team to deliver an ambitious programme for the whole region. The impact of the YNYMCA, and the opportunities it brings for the region, cannot be underestimated. It provides focus and funding to enable good economic growth and inward investment, build affordable sustainable housing, rise to the net zero challenge, and invest significantly in transport.

For example, should funding settlements remain as planned, transport will see an injection of around £400m in new money in the first term of this Mayoral office. Over the next eight years the transport settlement alone is worth around £1 billion. This will enable York and North

Yorkshire to push forward with ambitious plans that makes transport in our region fit for the 21st century and ready for the 22nd.

Since the last Full Council, I have deputised for the Leader at various CYC meetings, at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, The York Cares Awards, York Design Awards, and championed the City at UKREiiF – the UK's largest real estate investment event. It is an ongoing pleasure to work closely with the Leader as the Labour Group steers York away from the old insular politics of the previous administration and into an outward looking, opportunity grabbing organisation.

We continue to work constructively with partners and stakeholders on York Central who share our bold ambition for the site, the city its residents and businesses.

It would be remiss of me not to point out that the Deputy Leader Report remains an anachronism left over from the old coalition of Liberal Democrats and Greens. As Labour hold the majority on the Council, and the Leader and Deputy work closely together daily, there is no need for a report effectively duplicating that of the Leader. I welcome the proposal to remove this report from the agenda, allowing more time for councillors to debate other business.

Cllr Kilbane, Deputy Leader

8 July 2024

**Executive Member for the Environment and Climate Emergency
Report to Full Council, July 2024**

The challenge to reduce emissions and restore nature is immense, and it is easy to become despondent or cynical. York has done neither. It retained the highest rating - A - in 2023, by CDP-ICLEI Track, which rates council actions on emissions and climate. We have ensured that Climate and Environment are considered as one of our 4 core priorities in all council decisions, with a lot of work done to ensure that our Climate Action Plan is a dynamic piece of work, project managed jointly by our carbon reduction team and Directors of services.

We are increasing carbon literacy training and accreditation for staff and have introduced quarterly cross-portfolio meetings between Environment, Transport and Housing and Health, ensuring that we are working as a whole Council for the benefit of York residents and our planet's health and wellbeing.

The city's Climate Strategy aligns directly with the Council Plan, One City of All – where our climate objectives are clearly set out.

Our commitments are to tackling health inequalities and carbon emissions that arise, in roughly equal portions, from Transport, Housing and the built environment, and from Energy, alongside our need to reverse environmental loss, and adapt and thrive in a world of changing and more extreme weather.

I want to thank our **Carbon Reduction** team for the significant funding – over £8 million - they have brought into York this year, targeted at making the biggest difference to reducing carbon emissions and to meet our ambitions for low energy costs, clean air, warm homes, and healthy living. This includes:

- 1) Almost £3 million from the Combined Authority's Joint Committee for allocation of funding from the Mayor's Net Zero Fund. This funding is being used to complete an outline business case for a potential green energy park at Harewood Whin, which could lead to a reduction of 8,125 tCO₂e per year and power the equivalent of 10,000 households, while generating revenue and creating demand for new skills and local employment opportunities.

The project is also exploring the business case and potential to deliver strategic benefits associated with relocating the Hazel Court household waste recycling depot to a more convenient location, especially as the City grows. We are also exploring two large-scale renewable generation projects, including onshore wind near North Wiggington and Ground-mounted Solar near Langwith, a strategic site in the Local Plan. In total, these projects could contribute 65MW of new renewable generation for the city.

- 2) Our local area energy plan outlines the scale of change needed to enable emission free, low energy cost, clean air York; 73,000 heat pumps installed in homes, 44,100 homes improved with insulation, draught proofing and double glazing, 24 % of homes generating their own electricity with rooftop solar, 920 MW of large scale renewable electricity generation. The City Leap Accelerator Project – a partnership with the MCA and NYC, has received £2m of funding from the Department for Net Zero and Energy Security to test the replicability of the Bristol City Leap model in our region, accelerating delivery and investment of net zero projects at scale.
- 3) Innovate UK has invested over £3m into The Retrofit One-Stop-Shop for York. A third of York's emissions come from housing and buildings, and residents need help, advice and trusted suppliers to make the changes needed. Developed in close partnership with 7 different local organisations, the one stop shop has the potential to address significant emissions from the domestic sector. The project will develop a digital platform to support householder decisions throughout the retrofit process, together with building much needed green construction and retrofit skills benefitting both the city and its residents. Two council homes are nearing completion as local demonstrator projects.
- 4) Other Net Zero Funded projects include installation of renewable heating to improve comfort for tenants at Honeysuckle and Alex Lyon House. The replacement of inefficient heating systems and associated fabric improvements will reduce carbon emissions, and bring cosier homes and a 50% reduction in heating costs for residents. The LED improvement projects will result in carbon and cost savings for the council of around £80,000.
- 5) 9 York schools have now benefitted from our partnership with Solar for Schools, with 3 of these being fitted in the last 12 months, and a further 4 in the final stages of negotiation. Lord Deramore's Primary is notable as the programme's largest school solar installation in the country.

Housing

The Ordnance Lane housing scheme was expanded to enable an increase from 60 to 101 affordable homes, all certified Passivhaus standard. Our retrofit policy of tackling voids first, enabling work to be done faster and without inconvenience to occupants, has dealt with mould and insulation as a priority and significant progress has been made in clearing the backlog. The Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) scheme is making good progress in providing advice for residents in conservation areas and on Traveller sites amenity buildings, including arranging access for specialist designers or heat engineers to deliver advice and surveys, helping residents understand and decide on their options. CYC has continued to partner with York Community Energy to deliver York Energy Advice with new funding in 2023 from the Shared Prosperity Fund. We are shortly launching a new partnership project to encourage uptake of benefits and energy efficiency measures via the Eco Flex scheme, which will maximise residents' energy efficiency via funds paid for by the energy companies. Officers continue to deliver decarbonisation of heating and insulation for homes not on gas via the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) 2.

Congratulations are also due for winning the Regional Large-scale project of the year award at the Yorkshire Energy Efficiency Awards for the SHDF Wave 1 project.

Transport emissions represent nearly a third of all the city's emissions, and I am really delighted that Executive will be invited to approve the Local Transport Strategy in July which, at its heart, has a new Movement and Place Plan. By prioritising people, especially our children and young adults, and valuing our City as a place where work and play co-exist. We can adapt our ancient road network to better suit our travel needs and improve the health and wellbeing of all. This will help to reduce car dependence, and associated carbon emissions, freeing up road space for those that most need it.

Air Quality Action Plan 4

Air quality has continued to improve; Holgate has come in under the target for NO₂ in 2023 for the first time, with a reduction of 10% across the City. Having spent over a decade walking past the air monitor on the corner of Blossom Street with prams and growing children myself, and watching children from Scarcroft, Millthorpe, All Saints, St Pauls, Acomb, Our Lady's, Poppleton Road, York High and The Mount trekking up and down this stretch, breathing in this air, this is a significant milestone.

Gillygate residents, you are not forgotten – we need more reductions across the whole City, and our Transport Strategy will play a significant role in bringing clean air to all. We strengthened our commitment by aspiring to WHO standards as our target, whilst acknowledging that some air pollution is caused by factors including global weather patterns that are outside our control.

We are launching an Air Quality alert platform which will show areas of concern and advise people in York how to avoid them, as well as encouraging us all to take steps not to add to pollution on days of poor air quality. The alerts will also be shown on road signs. The AQ team ran an awareness campaign on the dangers of solid fuel fires last Autumn, which release the more damaging small particulates of 2.5 micrograms and under and wrote to over 350 farmers outlining the dangers to air quality posed by ammonia based fertilizers. A lot is achieved by our dedicated team of two.

We relaunched the **York Climate Commission** in January; over 100 representatives from organisations and business across York attended, and ten working groups have formed, under the areas of Biodiversity and Nature, Connecting with Green Spaces, Buildings, Retrofit and Energy, Education and Youth engagement, Food, Future Green Economy, Health, Transport, Waste and circular economy. This was no mean feat with no additional funding or capacity, but the response has been so inspiring and welcome. I would like to thank everyone involved, who is willingly giving up time to help our City adapt and thrive even as our climate changes, and our colleagues at the Stockholm Environment Institute who have recently offered designated admin support.

No one person or organisation can effect the changes necessary, and the Commission members have an important role, not just in reviewing and agreeing the York Climate Change Strategy and providing leadership and accountability for progressing activity with the strategy and action plan, but working as a whole City, creating a network of collaboration and co-operation, sharing knowledge and best practice, and celebrating the actions that are being taken.

We have planted **2,550 trees** out of our Council Plan target of 4,000, in the first year of White Rose Funding of Green Streets. Trees bring multiple benefits; cleaner air, much needed shade and cooling as temperatures rise, increased biodiversity and nature on our doorsteps, as well as carbon storage.

I am looking forward to work that is in the pipeline for a Tree Strategy across our City, to ensure that we protect and replace our existing trees as well as increase our Tree Canopy overall. In all planting we prioritise areas of greatest need alongside benefits.

The Living Heritage Fund awarded £39,000 to celebrate the King's Coronation earlier this year, to invest in two new micro-woodlands for the city. Based on the Miyawaki planting method, these entail high density planting that is fast growing and deliver a high level of biodiversity. The public response to suggestions for sites was enthusiastic, and we are keeping a long list of sites that are able to be planted on with future funding.

I am also delighted to complete the tree update part of this report by announcing that the **York Community Woodland** will formally open on 20 August, with the Civic Party and invited guests celebrating 250,000 trees in the new woodland just outside of Knapton. My thanks go to my predecessor Executive Member for the Environment, Cllr Widdowson, for the work she put in to help make this happen.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Work is nearing completion across York and North Yorkshire after a series of consultation sessions across the region to identify key habitats and species for protective action. Some of this overlaps with B-Lines, a project to restore and create a series of wildflower-rich 'insect pathways' across the country to mitigate the loss of 97% of wildflower meadows since the Second World War, but is much broader in outlook, encompassing many different types of habitat and species.

Additionally, the **LINC** project is currently out for tender. Local Investment in Natural Capital is a DEFRA funded programme supported by the Environment Agency, to support a small cohort of local authority trailblazers; City of York and North Yorkshire Council are joined by Cornwall Council, West Midlands CA and Northumberland County Council, to facilitate mobilisation of private investment to deliver projects relating to nature recovery, climate adaptation and climate resilience.

Both these projects are supported with work that we have already identified in the City to map spaces ensuring that CYC land is managed in the most beneficial way for biodiversity, climate adaptation and resilience, helping inform our nascent insetting and offsetting and adaptation policies. Our new Ecologist is now in place and work on this will be starting soon.

Buzz About York

Acting on our pollinator strategy we are building climate resilience and increasing pollinator friendly spaces by introducing sustainable planting in selected areas in the City centre and changing our management of verges and open spaces.

The City centre planting has swapped bedding plants for ecologist-selected, climate resilient, pollinator friendly perennials, which do not need replacing each year. This also cuts transport costs and emissions, staff time and waste.

We are trialling 'one cut and remove' on some arterial routes and areas in the City. We do not have the equipment to remove grass cuttings, (necessary to deplete nutrients in the soil and allow a wider variety of local plants to thrive, rather than just nettle and bramble) but have worked with Lower Derwenthorpe Nature Reserve to share their equipment this year and are grateful for their support. Already we can see huge successes for pollinators and biodiversity. On one trial area 80 different species of plant have been recorded, including Bee and Pyramidal orchids, and Creeping yellowcress and Lesser swinecress, which are not particularly common for York, and already represent an increase on the baseline assessment last year. If you see a 'Why the Long Grass' sign, those are good facts to remember.

A considerable amount of work has gone into improving our knowledge of how different areas of the city are managed over the last 12 months and mapping this is ongoing, as is uploading the information to YorMap. As well as the designated trial sites there are an increasing number of areas and verges that many residents want to manage for wildlife. This is much more difficult for our operatives to deliver than a single management plan for all green spaces, and I am grateful to all our public realm staff for their support in helping us ensure that from park to pavement edge we are working alongside Nature wherever possible. Members can help support this mapping work with feedback of local knowledge where you think it is missing.

Our Eco Team continue to support Friends of Groups and our parks and green spaces, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to thank them and volunteers at the upcoming Green Flag awards this month.

Residential Verges

We reduced residential verge cuts to 6 times a year, partly in response to our need to find savings against a background of insufficient funding,

and partly due to successful commitments to deliver biodiversity benefits, allowing different shorter plants to flower throughout the season. In addition, climate change has made grass management even more difficult this year than last.

Our thanks go to all Officers but those in public realm have faced a particularly challenging year. Changing weather patterns with increased incidents of torrential downpours have also put extra burdens on the public realm team managing clean up events after flooding.

Garden waste

We made the difficult decision to introduce a garden waste subscription scheme in response to the financial challenges that York, and all local authorities are facing. We recognise the difficulties for those hit hardest by the cost of living crisis and halved the subscription rate for those on council tax support. Our first priority has to be to keep York City Council solvent; the impact on the residents of Birmingham following bankruptcy, where council tax is now at 20%, is painful to watch. Joining over 70% of local authorities across the country, including North Yorkshire, in introducing a charge for a non-statutory service is difficult, but preferable to cutting other valued services which support our most vulnerable residents. Disposal options at Hazel Court or Towthorpe remain, but composting at home is the most environmentally beneficial and free alternative. The previous scheme was not available to all residents. A charged scheme can be offered to more parts of the City including the newer developments in future years. We will of course monitor negative impacts.

Developing a subscription scheme is a large and challenging piece of work and I want to thank Officers for all the work they have done to bring this forward, whilst also dealing with all the usual, considerable, day to day operational activities, in an already challenging year of extreme weather and budget cuts.

I would like to highlight an example of our Officers going above and beyond with thanks to Ben Grabham and Jodie Dunn for spending the hottest Saturday afternoon of the year, out of work hours, shovelling nearly 17 tonnes of free compost for the many residents who took part in the giveaway at Harewood Whin in June.

Weeds

In line with our commitment to reduce the use of glyphosate, the number of sprays has been reduced from 3 to 2, with the option for streets to opt

out of spraying if Residents undertake to remove weeds by hand, which many areas across the City are now doing. There is a balance to be struck; we also have a commitment to accessibility and protecting infrastructure, and we will be learning lessons from this year and inviting feedback from Members and community at the end of this growing season. We are also keeping alternatives under review, whilst being mindful of our current budgetary constraints.

City centre cleansing

We are the proud owners of a new piece of equipment - a Goupil – which is able to work across the city centre, combining a jet wash and capacity to empty bins, at times when the larger waste lorries may not be able to. This will cut down staff time of walking across the City and increase efficiency.

Electric charging at the Hazel Court waste Depot

Is now fully installed and functioning well!

Our Public protection team have continued their work to keep York a safe and healthy City for all.

We have 2,094 food premises in the city, of which (79%) are FHRS '5' rated, and 93% are rated above '3' i.e classed as 'broadly compliant'. To help compliance and achieve the highest ratings, we continue to offer pre-inspection advice visits on a cost recovery basis – last year saw the highest ever number of businesses taking up the offer. 193 food standard assessments have been carried out to ensure that 'food is what it says it is', and that allergens are declared. There have been two successful prosecutions of food businesses where poor standards continue.

We are keen to reduce the burden of plastic on our City, and our planet. Following the ban on single use plastic in cutlery in October 2023, Officers advised the small number of premises where disposable plastic cutlery was still being used that this was no longer lawful.

No further incidents of disposable plastic cutlery have been found in 805 food safety inspections since. Make it York have banned single use plastics from all events they organise including the Christmas Market.

Trading Standards Officers have conducted test purchases with the aid of volunteers for sales of vapes and alcohol. There is one prosecution pending for the illegal sale of a vape to a 14 year old. Officers have also seized illegal vapes worth over £13k.

The National Trading Standards team, based here at City of York Council, continues to successfully prosecute scams affecting consumers nationally and recovering the proceeds of crime. Examples include an international modelling agency scam, unfair practices in the resale of concert tickets including Ed Sheeran and those assisting scammers offering to fix bogus computer problems.

In Licensing, eleven new hackney carriage licences were made available to black, low emission, wheelchair accessible vehicles. At the time of writing there are eight such vehicles which are regularly seen on the road, and a further three are being sourced by taxi drivers. The team are consulting on a new taxi licensing policy (consultation closes on the 14 July) and includes proposals to encourage more environmentally friendly and wheelchair accessible vehicles into the city's taxi fleet. There have been two successful prosecutions of taxi drivers illegally plying for hire. Officers are continuing to identify unlicensed dog breeders and bring them into the licensing and inspection regime where required.

The work of the Public Protection team provided support to the BID in helping the city to renew its Purple Flag award, recognising a vibrant and diverse night-time economy whilst also promoting the safety and wellbeing of residents and visitors.

Public Toilets

CYC agreed a contract a decade ago with Healthmatic that runs until 2029. The contract provided for a stakeholder group to be set up, but this has never been enacted. I have now held two meetings with city representatives. There is no magic wand, nor magic money tree, but having open, frank conversations with partners, traders, accessibility groups and the contract provider is encouraging shared understanding and ownership of difficulties.

We are looking at how to increase and improve the 'Take a Seat' campaign, event requirements, better signage, and scope for joint work with the MCA. Positive news is that refurbishment of the two Changing Places toilets has recently been completed.

Partners

I was really delighted to welcome the Keep Britain Tidy annual conference to York in March this year and celebrate the unsung heroes of York and all local authorities. Our street cleaners, litter pickers, neighbourhood enforcement officers, grass cutters and waste teams do hard, heavy work, day in day out, and they deserve our thanks. I was very happy to boast of York's volunteers – we are in the process of building capacity, but previously our lists included 930 litter pickers, 284

gardeners, 63 Friends of, 38 Tree wardens, 105 people helping lock/unlock parks, 8 trail builders, 293 snow wardens, 1 balsam basher, 35 power tools, 2 beck clearers and 30 leaf clearers.

I am really pleased to report that joint working is flourishing between York BID, CYC, YCT, and Make it York with ongoing cleansing and rejuvenation projects. CYC and York BID dovetail their litter picking and city cleansing operations and the rejuvenation days, one of which I was pleased to take part in, have transformed benches, bins and other street furniture. Thanks to all the volunteers who have taken part in this, and the York businesses who have donated paint and equipment. More days are planned for September; all Members and residents are warmly welcomed to volunteer.

It was a privilege to outline the fantastic work that York Cares does at their Stakeholder meeting, and to thank the amazing volunteers at their Awards Ceremony. York employers and employees give their time so generously to help our City and its people, and, alongside our Eco team and St Nicks, have helped transform so many of our public spaces, including schools and parks. Over 1,260 people took part in transforming 36 sites, culminating in the Big Community Challenge last year at Foss Islands park, restoring the beck, clearing rubbish, and a beautiful mural. They are starting work on North St Gardens this month, and I can't wait to see the magic that happens at this year's Community Challenge, the theme of which is 'Changing Landscapes'.

St Nicks continues to help improve our City and green corridors in really significant ways, and are helping York build resilience and restore nature. Joint work on more stunning wildflowering of portions of the Bar walls is underway for next year, as well as a very exciting project in the River Ouse.

Joint work by the EA, CYC and St Nicks in Hull Road has resulted in confirmed sightings of water vole; an endangered species on the Red List of English Mammals. This is a fantastic achievement in a City Park. York is so lucky in its people; I am very proud to belong to a City with such a rich volunteering and philanthropic heritage.

Cllr Ravilious and myself were pleased to help support UoY in launching the first ever City Nature Challenge here in York. Over the course of a long weekend in April, people were asked to record sightings of all kinds of flora and fauna via the iNaturalist app, bringing people closer to Nature, increasing interest, and providing a valuable data bank from citizen science.

York residents rose to the challenge magnificently, coming a very close 2nd place for the number of observations, making a total of 12,833

biodiversity observations, 3rd place for number of observers with 221 people recording observations and received Gold for the total number of species observed with 1487 different species, showing the amazing diversity of wildlife here in our City. We came 47th out of 690 cities globally, punching well above our weight, and I look forward to building on this fantastic result next year.

Against the really challenging backdrop of local authority underfunding, I have spent a lot of time in my first year going out to the City talking to people and partners, everywhere, most of whom are also struggling with cost of living and climate challenges. Building these bridges and connections is so important. By having open, honest conversations and not losing sight of our aspirations makes us a stronger community, helping us achieve far more than we could do alone. I am humbled by the hard work of so many of our teams and the generosity in time, skills, support and enthusiasm of all the people I have met, to help make York a climate resilient, green leafed, wildlife wonderful, healthy, happy city for all.

Cllr Kent

Executive Member for the Environment and Climate Emergency

8 July 2024

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Report of the Chair of the Customer Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSCCSMC) – July 2024

1. At Annual Council in May a number of changes were made to the membership of the Scrutiny committees. I'd like to welcome new members and thank those who have moved on. I'd particularly like to thank Cllr Myers for his work in 2023/24 as Chair of the Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee.
2. In my report to the March Full Council meeting, I reported that the Chairs of the Scrutiny committees and Audit & Governance had met with the Local Government Association's Peer Review team during their visit in February and that I looked forward to seeing the report arising from the visit.
3. The published report¹ includes the following observation:

“Scrutiny arrangements at CYC would benefit from review. As a function of governance, it can be hugely beneficial for quality of decision-making if it is fully supported and empowered to be a positive and integral part of policy development. It is clear that this is recognised by the administration as an area where a fresh look at how improvements can be made would also be a good use of time and effort.”
4. The draft Corporate Improvement Framework which has been created in response to the report includes an action to review Scrutiny and oversight. This is welcome, and the CSCCSMC work plan includes an opportunity for members to input into this review, and details and timescale for which are not yet clear. I echo the review's comment that an effective Scrutiny function can be hugely beneficial for the quality of decision-making and look forward to working collaboratively to identify ways in which we can improve current arrangements.
5. Task & Finish Groups are one way in which Scrutiny can add value, and I was pleased to be involved in a recent review into the city's much-missed Dial & Ride service with Cllr Steward and Cllr Jane Burton. The group presented its report to EPAT Scrutiny in

1

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/b39832/Local%20Government%20Association%20Peer%20Challenge%20Thursday%2009-May-2024%2017.30%20Executive.pdf?T=9>

June and the agreed recommendations will now be considered by Executive. Better support for Task & Finish work is something that I hope can be picked up as part of the review of Scrutiny arrangements.

6. The Scrutiny committees were recently invited to review and comment on a draft 'pipeline' of schemes for which Mayoral Combined Authority funding support is to be sought. This was a good example of where Scrutiny can play a constructive role in informing decisions, and I hope that we will see more of this in the coming months.
7. Scrutiny committee work plans for the current municipal year have come together well, though there continue to be challenges in securing input from officers. I appreciate that the situation isn't helped by some Directorates carrying vacant posts which puts added pressure on teams, but I hope that we can nevertheless ensure that officer input can be secured so that Scrutiny is able to do its job.
8. Since my March report there have been two CSCCSMC call-in meetings. The meeting on 7 May to consider a called-in decision on the award of an advertising contract was ended shortly after it began when it was announced that the decision that had been called in was to be annulled. The subsequent new decision made on the same topic was subject to call-in at a meeting held on 3 June.

CSCCSMC

9. At its 22 April meeting the committee discussed the council's approach to measuring greenhouse gas emissions, and specifically scope 3 emissions. The committee also discussed changes in legislation relating to public procurement and what this may mean for the authority.
10. At its 13 May meeting the committee had a wide-ranging discussion on progress with the implementation of the agreed Ten-Year Strategies which guide the council's work in the areas of health and wellbeing, economic development and climate change. The committee also identified a number of improvements to hopefully improve the way in which council motions and petitions are progressed.

11. At its 10 June meeting the committee had an in-depth review of the draft pipeline of projects for potential Combined Authority funding support.

Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee

12. At its 9 April meeting the committee received updates on the progress of the REACH (Reconnecting Education, the Arts, Culture and Heritage) project. The committee also received a report from York Museums Trust and an update on the work of the York Citizens' Theatre Trust. Following a motion to Council on 23 November 2023, the committee discussed the important role that York City Football Club plays in the culture and heritage of the city.
13. At its 7 May meeting the committee discussed the formulation of a work plan for the 2024/25 municipal year.
14. At its 2 July meeting the committee fed in its suggestions for the pipeline of potential projects for Combined Authority funding support. It also received an update report on the development of the Family Hub Network in the city and an update on the work of York Learning.

Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee

15. At its 25 March meeting the committee discussed the council's asset management strategy.
16. At its 25 April meeting the committee discussed Digital Residents Parking and Parking Enforcement and options for electric vehicle charging for residents who do not have access to off-road parking.
17. At its 21 May meeting members discussed the result of the Local Transport Strategy consultation and provided feedback ahead of further consideration by Executive.
18. At its 25 June meeting the committee welcomed representatives from Yorkshire Water to discuss water quality and a range of issues of interest to members and residents. The committee also provided feedback on the proposed pipeline of Combined Authority schemes and agreed a number of recommendations arising from the work of the Dial & Ride Task & Finish group.

Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

19. At its 27 March meeting members discussed the council's approach to housing asset management and repairs, including stock condition information, damp and mould. The committee also agreed the remit and membership of a Task & Finish Group on the topic of home care commissioning.
20. At its 23 April meeting members discussed a report on the York NHS Healthcheck programme and discussed latest trends, research, local developments and national policy on vaping.
21. At its 15 May meeting members provided feedback to help inform the council's draft Adult Social Care Strategy. Members also discussed Adult Autism and ADHD Assessment services.
22. At its 12 June meeting members discussed the council's plans to reduce homelessness through the resettlement pathway and also provided feedback on the draft pipeline of Combined Authority projects.

Cllr Fenton
Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny
Management Committee (CSCCSMC)
8 July 2024



Full Council

17 July 2024

Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
(Portfolio of the Executive Leader)

Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members

Summary

1. To agree the adoption of the proposed Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members, attached at Annex A, together with agreeing dispensations for any Members taking Parental Leave in accordance with the Policy, and delegating authority to the Monitoring Officer to confirm such dispensations outside of Council.

Background

2. Members will be aware that employees of the Council are entitled to take parental leave, in accordance with legislative requirements and Council policy. Members will equally be aware, however, that the statutory entitlement to parental leave does not extend to elected Members.
3. In order to remedy this imbalance, numerous Councils have adopted a Parental Leave Policy for Members, broadly mirroring the statutory entitlement, but with necessary modifications to reflect the particular circumstances of both the Council and elected Members. Those Parental Leave Policies, like this one, are drawn from, and fully reflective of, the LGA model policy for Parental Leave for Members.
4. The policy also addresses the issue of the need for Members to attend at least one meeting every six months, as set out in [Section 85\(1\)](#) of the Local Government Act 1972. In particular, the policy, if adopted, will ensure that a dispensation is granted, as a matter of course, for the duration of any parental leave taken.
5. To that end, in addition to the adoption of the policy, this report seeks a decision from Council to approve a dispensation for any

Member taking parental leave, and to include a specific delegation to the Monitoring Officer to confirm that dispensation in writing to the relevant Member.

6. Implications

Financial – There may be a small financial implication in the event that the recipient of a Special Responsibility Allowance takes parental leave, and cover is required. It is expected that this will be met within existing budgets.

Human Resources (HR) – None directly arising from this report.

Equalities – One of the Council's four key commitments is Equalities and Human Rights. To deliver this commitment, and to make the city fairer for everyone living, working, or studying here it is important the Council has the broadest and most diverse range of Councillors, from all backgrounds and all walks of life, standing up for their local area and making a difference to people's lives.

That will be made harder if people are worried about how their choice to have children may impact on their ability to serve as a Councillor. Without the same level of support in place that is afforded to staff, we risk losing some of our best and most experienced Councillors when they start a family, and missing out on many more who are put off applying in the first place.

The IERUK 'Anti Racism and Inclusion Strategy' (<https://www.ieruk.org.uk/s/30423-IERUK-Anti-Racism-Strategy-Document-WEB.pdf>) highlights the lack of racial diversity of City of York's Councillors. Removing barriers such as this one will work towards improving overall diversity.

Legal – None directly arising from this report.

Crime and Disorder, Information Technology and Property – None directly arising from this report.

Options

7. Members may choose to:
 - a) approve the proposed Policy, dispensations, and amendment to the Constitution; or
 - b) not approve the Policy, dispensations, and amendment to the Constitution.

8. Option a) is the recommended option.

Recommendations

- 9. Council is recommended to:
 - a) Agree to the implementation of the Parental Leave Policy for Members, attached at Annex A;
 - b) Agree that a Member taking Parental Leave pursuant to the Policy is a suitable reason for Council to grant a dispensation from the provisions of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, and that such a dispensation is therefore granted for any Member taking Parental Leave pursuant to the Policy; and
 - c) Amend the Council’s Scheme of Delegation to introduce a delegation to the Monitoring Officer to confirm in writing a dispensation under b) above for any Member taking Parental Leave pursuant to the Policy.

Reasons for the Recommendations

- 10. The reasons for the recommendations are:
 - a) To ensure that Members requiring Parental Leave are able to take such leave as they may require, ensuring equity of treatment with Officers, and contributing towards improving Member retention and diversity;
 - b) To ensure that Members taking Parental Leave do not inadvertently vacate their offices by virtue of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, by granting a dispensation in advance for any Member taking Parental Leave under the Policy, rather than requiring individual dispensation reports to be presented to Council meetings; and
 - c) To ensure that such dispensation can be confirmed at an early stage, and that individual Members are not required to disclose personal information unnecessarily.

Author and Chief Officer responsible for the report: Bryn Roberts, Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Report Approved

Date 7 May 2024

Specialist Implications Officer(s): None

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex A - Parental Leave Policy for Members

Parental Leave Policy for Members

Introduction

The objective of this policy is to ensure that, insofar as possible, Members are able to take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption of a child/children, that both parents are able to take leave, and that reasonable and adequate arrangements are in place to provide cover for portfolio-holders and others in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) during any period of leave taken.

Improved provision for new parents will contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age, and background of local authority councillors. It will also assist with retaining experienced councillors – particularly women – and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from it.

Legal advice has been taken on these policies, and they conform with current requirements.

1. Leave Periods

- 1.1** Members giving birth are entitled to up to 26 weeks' parental leave from the due date, with the option to extend up to 52 weeks by agreement if required. Parental leave may start on any day of the week, at the Member's request.
- 1.2** In addition, where the birth is premature, the Member is entitled to take leave during the period between the date of the birth and the due date in addition to the 26-week period. In such cases any leave taken to cover prematurity of 28 days or less shall be deducted from any extension beyond the initial 26 weeks.
- 1.3** In exceptional circumstances, and only in cases of prematurity of 29 days or more, additional leave may be taken by agreement, and such exceptional leave shall not be deducted from the total 52-week entitlement.
- 1.4** Members shall be entitled to take a minimum of two weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth of their child(ren).
- 1.5** A Member who has made Shared Parental Leave arrangements through their external employment is requested to advise the

Council of these arrangements at the earliest possible opportunity. Every effort will be made to replicate such arrangements in terms of leave from Council.

- 1.6** Where both parents are Members, leave may be shared up to a maximum of 24 weeks for the first 26-week period, and 26 weeks for any leave agreed thereafter, up to a maximum of 50 weeks. Special and exceptional arrangements may be made in cases of prematurity.
- 1.7** A Member who adopts a child or children through an approved adoption agency shall be entitled to take up to 26 weeks' adoption leave from the date of placement of the child or children, with the option to extend up to 52 weeks by agreement if required.
- 1.8** Any Member who takes maternity, shared parental or adoption leave retains their legal duty under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period unless the Council Meeting agrees to an extended leave of absence prior to the expiration of that six-month period. In order to ensure equitable application of this policy, a dispensation from this requirement, for the duration of any parental leave taken, will automatically be granted by Council, and will be confirmed in writing by the Monitoring Officer.
- 1.9** Any Member intending to take maternity, paternity, shared parental, or adoption leave will be responsible for ensuring that they comply with the relevant notice requirements of the Council, both in terms of the point at which the leave starts and the point at which they return.
- 1.10** Any member taking leave should ensure that they respond to reasonable requests for information as promptly as possible, and that they keep officers and colleagues informed and updated in relation to intended dates of return and requests for extension of leave.

2. Basic Allowance

- 2.1** All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full whilst on maternity, paternity, or adoption leave.

3. Special Responsibility Allowances

- 3.1** Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity, shared parental, or adoption leave.
- 3.2** Where a replacement is appointed to cover the period of absence that person shall receive an SRA on a pro rata basis for the period of the temporary appointment.
- 3.3** The payment of Special Responsibility Allowances, whether to the primary SRA holder or a replacement, during a period of maternity, paternity, shared parental, or adoption leave shall continue for a period of six months, or until the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or until the date when the member taking leave is up for election (whichever is soonest). At such a point, the position will be reviewed, and will be subject to a possible extension for a further six-month period.
- 3.4** Should a Member, appointed to replace the member on maternity, paternity, shared parental, or adoption leave, already hold a remunerated position, the ordinary rules relating to payment of more than one Special Responsibility Allowances shall apply.
- 3.5** Unless the Member taking leave is removed from their post at an Annual Meeting of the Council whilst on leave, or unless the Party to which they belong loses control of the Council during their leave period, they shall return at the end of their leave period to the same post, or to an alternative post with equivalent status and remuneration which they held before the leave began.

4. Resigning from Office and Elections

- 4.1** If a Member decides not to return at the end of their maternity, paternity, shared parental, or adoption leave they must notify the Council at the earliest possible opportunity. All allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.
- 4.2** If an election is held during the Member's maternity, paternity, shared parental, or adoption leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic allowance and SRA if appropriate will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

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Full Council**17 July 2024**

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Joint Standards Committee Annual Report for 2023/2024

(Approved by Joint Standards Committee on 6 March 2024)

Foreword from the Chair of the Joint Standards Committee

1. This has been a year of change for the Joint Standards Committee as we have responded to the results of the CYC Local elections last May.
2. We welcomed an extra member from each of the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups, who now sit alongside one Conservative member and our usual Parish Council representatives. Our Independent Persons, Joe Leigh and Rose Mazza, continue to offer their expert advice and observations.
3. We continue to review our policy and procedures, and where necessary, recommend changes to full Council. We also continue to work collaboratively with the Audit & Governance Committee, in particular relating to constitutional changes.
4. Managing the complaints received about our City and Parish and Town Councillors has remained a large part of our work during this year. We have aspired to build on our relationships with our Parish Councils and would ideally want to see a pattern of regular visits and liaison with key officers.
5. Finally, I would like to thank the Monitoring Officer, his Deputy, Frances Harrison, and their teams for their vital support and guidance. Also, I want to acknowledge the help and support given by Democratic Services, in particular Jane Meller.

Cllr M Rowley BEM**Chair of Joint Standards Committee**

Membership of the Committee

6. The Committee would like to thank all of its Members for supporting and attending the meetings during this year. The Committee appointed Councillor Martin Rowley as the Chair and Councillor Mark Waudby as the Vice Chair.

City of York Council:

- Councillor Martin Rowley BEM
- Councillor Tony Fisher
- Councillor Katie Lomas
- Councillor Michael Pavlovic
- Councillor Carol Runciman

Parish Councils

- Councillor Mark Waudby
- Councillor Stuart Rawlings
- Councillor Christopher Chambers

Independent Persons

- Mr Joe Leigh
- Ms Rose Mazza

Complaints

7. The Council received the following Code of Conduct complaints in the Municipal year May 2023 to March 2024:

Total number of complaints made: 21

Of those, number closed: 13

Number of current year complaints ongoing: 8

8. The following pie charts illustrate the nature of the complaints, who they came from, whether they were Parish or CYC and how they were dealt with (if closed) in the municipal year 22/23 and 23/24 to allow for comparison.

Figure 1
Nature of complaints 23/24

19/21 disrespect/disrepute
2/21 not declaring an interest

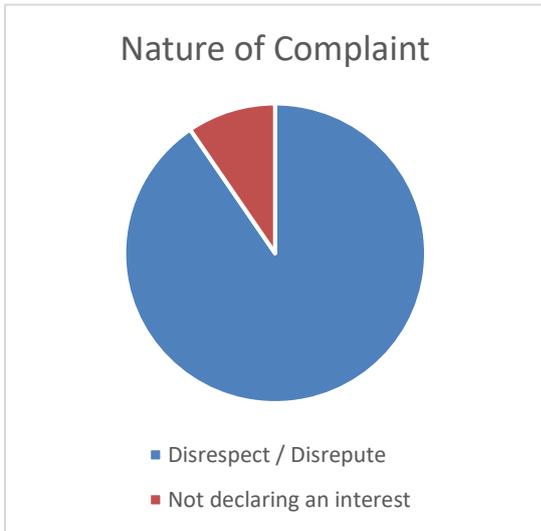


Figure 2
Nature of complaints 22/23

11/14 disrespect/disrepute
3/14 not declaring an interest

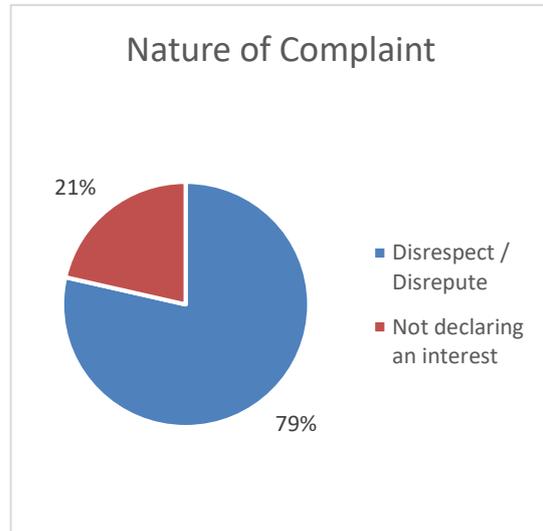


Figure 3
Origin of complaint 2023/24

CYC Councillor 1/21
Parish Councillor 7/21
Member of the Public 11/21

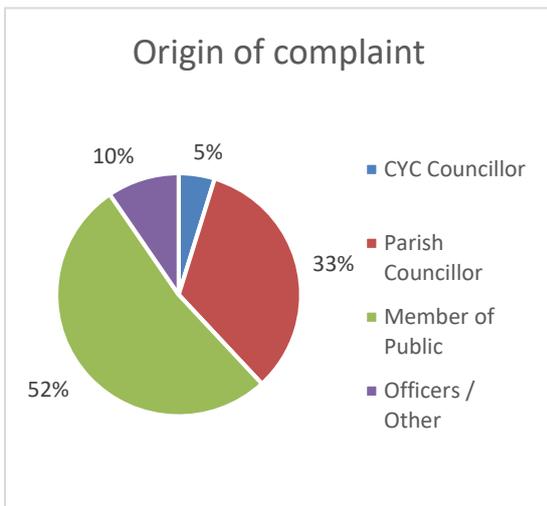


Figure 4
Origin of complaint 2022/23

CYC Councillor 3/14
Parish Councillor 5/14
Member of the Public 4/14

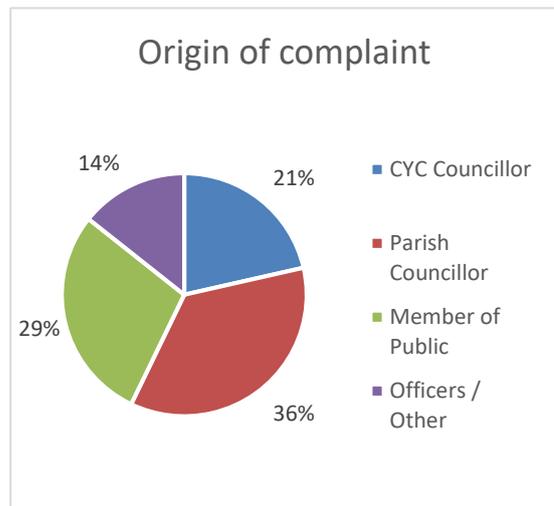


Figure 5
Subject Member of complaint 2023/24
 CYC Councillor 8/21
 Parish Councillor 13/21

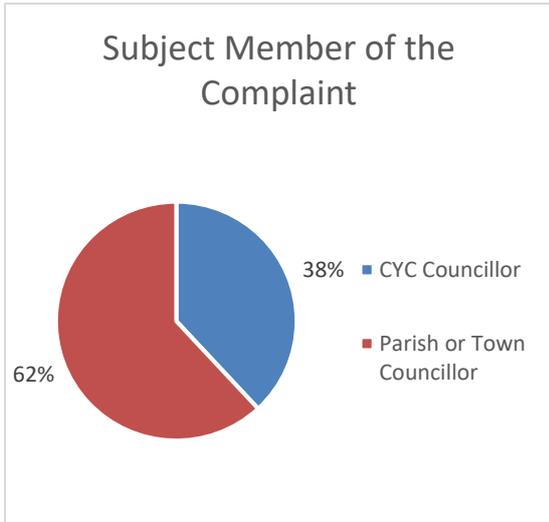


Figure 6
Subject Member of complaint 2022/23
 CYC Councillor 8/14
 Parish Councillor 6/14

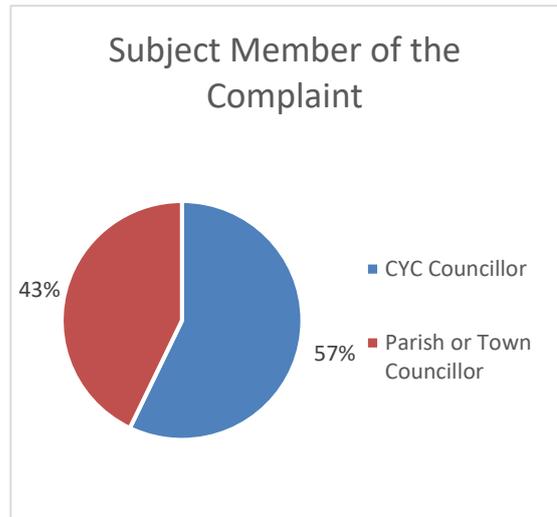


Figure 7 - Outcome of complaints received 2023-24
 Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer 5/21
 NFA at filter stage 6/21
 Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee – outstanding 0/21
 Closed following Assessment Sub-Committee - no breach found 5/21
 Informal resolution 1/21
 Progressed to investigation - investigation ongoing 3/21
 Closed following investigation - breach found 1/21

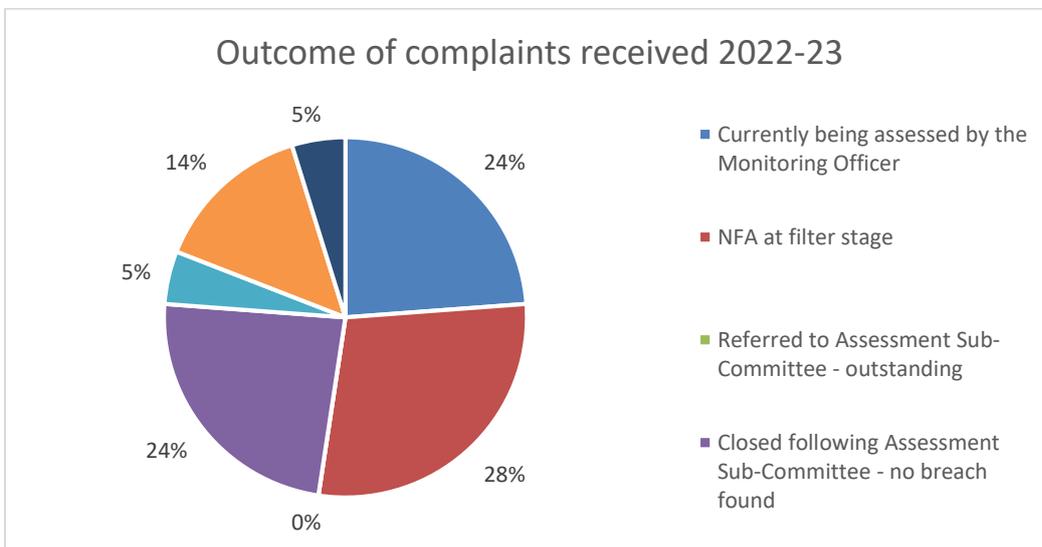


Figure 8 - Outcome of complaints received 2022-23

Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer 2/14

NFA at filter stage 4/14

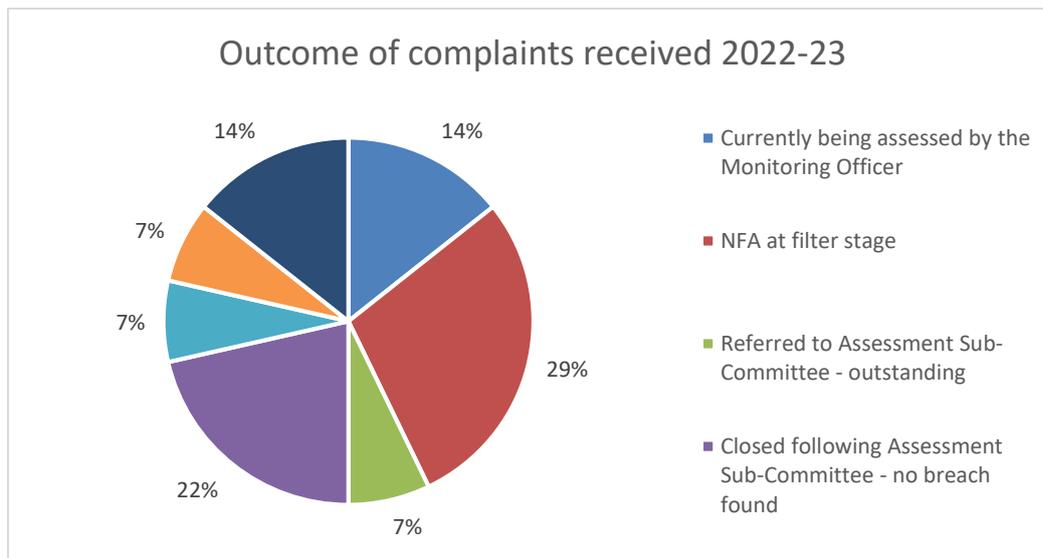
Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee – outstanding 1/14

Closed following Assessment Sub-Committee - no breach found 3/14

Informal resolution 1/14

Progressed to investigation - investigation ongoing 1/14

Closed following investigation - no breach found 2/14



All of the complaints received have been reported to meetings of the Joint Standards Committee throughout the year.

Other work**Model Code of Conduct for Members and review of Supporting Procedures**

9. A substantial amount of work was carried out in the years 2021/22 and 22/23 to adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct and implement a procedure for dealing with complaints which currently forms Appendix 29 of the Council's Constitution. Reflections of the Committee's experience of using that procedure during the past two municipal years informed a review carried out in November 2023.
10. The objectives in reviewing the procedure in summary were to:
 - Maintain adherence with statutory requirements, fairness and transparency;
 - Reduce word count, remove duplication and increase clarity;
 - Ensure equality of treatment and access (e.g. the case handling procedure should not discriminate against those unable to submit a written complaint);

- Balance member involvement and oversight with efficiency and trust in the Monitoring Officer and Independent Persons to discharge their statutory obligations;
 - Set clear expectations around what is and is not capable of constituting a breach;
 - Retain discretion for each case to be considered on its own merits;
 - Maximise efficiency of committee work.
11. Because the Case Handling Procedure is part of the Constitution, any amendments must be made by full Council. The revisions recommended by the Joint Standards Committee will next be considered by the Constitution Working Group.
12. It is recognised that in light of the Council's difficult financial situation, the important work of upholding standards and providing a mechanism to deal with complaints of breach of the member code of conduct must be done with maximum efficiency and at a cost proportionate to what can realistically be achieved with the limited range of sanctions available.

Independent Persons

13. One of the Council's Independent Persons, Mr Richard Gadd resigned. The Committee wish to express their gratitude to him for his service.
14. A recruitment exercise took place and Ms Rose Mazza was successfully recruited and appointed formally by Full Council in November 2023. Rose is warmly welcomed as an Independent Person alongside Mr Leigh who is thanked for his continued commitment and diligence in discharging the role.

Civility in Public Life

15. The Committee has noted the ongoing work of the Local Government Association on Civility in Public Life¹. Through its work on dealing with complaints against members the Committee has noted the difficulties of identifying the limits of constructive debate in physical and online spaces – “debate not hate”.
16. A mutual respect between citizens and holders of public office is essential to local democracy. The committee is keen to ensure that Members continue to be held to account for breaches of the Code of Conduct but also that they are adequately protected from the

potential for abuse. Positive citizen engagement can be encouraged by Member's use of specially designed infographics and by sign up to the LGA's public statement.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/campaigns/debate-not-hate/debate-not-hate-sign-our-public-statement>

Code of Conduct Training for Members/Member Induction Programme

17. The Joint Standards Committee shares a responsibility with the Audit and Governance Committee for shaping training for Members around Standards. The Committee received a report on the 2023 Member Induction Programme and fed back their views on how the offer for member training generally and specifically around standards could be further improved.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bryn Roberts, Director of Governance &
Monitoring Officer

**Report
Approved**



Date 8 July 2024

Specialist Implications Officer(s):

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

ⁱ <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/guidance-and-resources/civility-public-life-resources-councillors>

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Full Council

17 July 2024

Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
(Portfolio of the Executive Leader)

Use of General Exception (Urgency) and Special Urgency Procedures

Summary

1. To report to Council on the use of Special Urgency procedures, as required by legislation, and as set out within the City of York Council Constitution.
2. To report, for information, the instances where General Exception (i.e. Urgency) Procedures were used.

Background

3. Prior to taking a Key Decision, the Council's Executive must give notice of the intention to take the decision, and this notice must be given at least 28 clear calendar days before the decision is made.
4. Where publication of the intention to make a Key Decision is impracticable within the required 28-day timeframe, then the General Exception (urgency) rules, as set out at paragraph 14.1 of the Appendix 7 in the Council's constitution, may be applied.
5. If a decision is sufficiently urgent, the requirement to give five clear days' notice of the decision may also be waived by invoking the Special Urgency procedure.
6. In accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Rule 17) and paragraph 19 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the use of the Special Urgency procedure in relation to Executive decisions is to be reported quarterly to Council.

7. The Access to Information Procedure Rules set out at Appendix 7 of the Council's Constitution, provide that a quarterly report should be submitted to Council detailing the instances where Special Urgency procedures have been used in the preceding three months.
8. There have been no instances of the Special urgency procedures being used in the preceding three months, and none in total for the civic year May 2023 to May 2024.
9. There have been three instances of the General Exception rules being used in the civic year May 2023 to May 2024 and these are set out at Annex A to this report.

Implications

10. **Financial** – None.

Human Resources (HR) – None.

Equalities – no implications arising from the report.

Legal – the report ensures compliance with the legislative requirement to report on the use of Special Urgency procedures.

Crime and Disorder, Information Technology and Property – None directly arising from this report.

Options

11. N/A

Recommendations

12. Council is recommended to note the report.

Reasons for the Recommendations

To comply with legislative and constitutional requirements, and ensure full transparency.

Author Lindsay Tomlinson, Head of Democratic Governance

Chief Officer responsible for the report: Bryn Roberts, Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

**Report
Approved**

Date 9 July 2024

Specialist Implications Officer(s): None

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: City of York Council constitution CYC Constitution

Annexes:

Annex A Log of decisions taken under Urgency Procedures,
2023/2024.

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DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURE 2023 TO 2024

FORWARD PLAN PUBLISHED	MEETING DATE	ITEM	MEETING	KEY DECISION
25/09/2023	23/10/2023	Final Business Cases for Brownfield Housing funding programme	Joint Devolution Committee	YES
30/10/2023	14/11/2023	Local Bus Service Updates	Executive Member for Economy and Transport	NO
30/10/2023	16/11/2023	Extension of the Young People's Community Wellbeing and Support Service	Executive	YES
30/10/2023	21/11/2023	York Emissions Inventory Report 2023	Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency	NO
30/10/2023	21/11/2023	City of York Council: Annual Carbon Emissions Report 2022/23	Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency	NO
05/02/2024	20/02/2024	Update regarding the Recommission of the current York Reablement service	Executive	YES
13/05/2024	23/05/2023	Early Years Capital Grant Tender for Lowfield Green	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education	NO

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