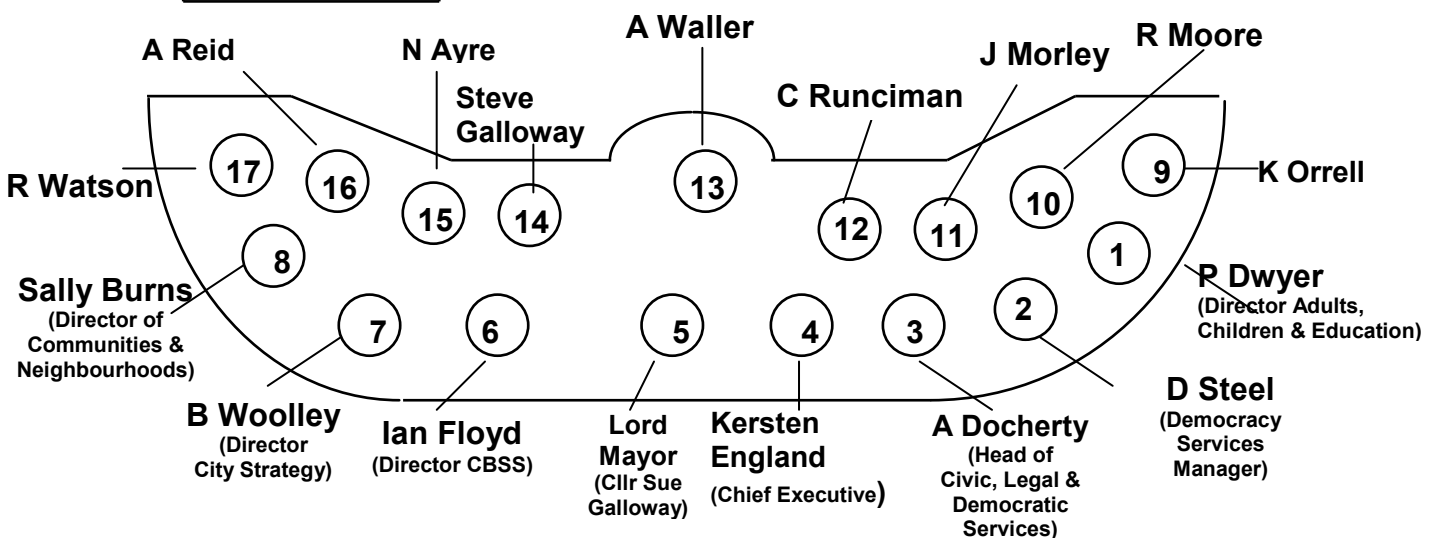
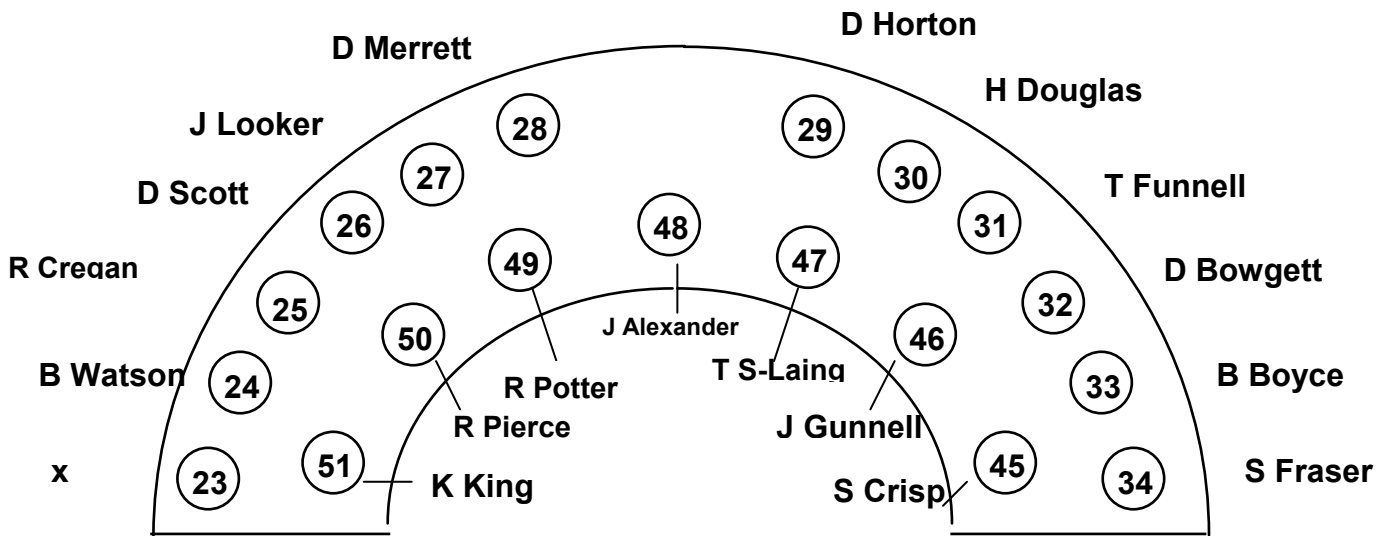


CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

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, York**, to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Thursday, 7 October 2010 at 6.30 pm

COUNCIL CHAMBER



A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting during the debate on the recommendations contained in Executive Minute 75 (The Barbican Auditorium) at item 7 on this agenda, on the grounds that the discussion may refer to information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons, which is classed as exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as revised by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 24)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 July 2010.

4. Civic Announcements

To consider any announcements made by the Lord Mayor in respect of Civic business.

5. 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 Wednesday, 6 October**.

6. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order No.7. To date, notice has been received of petitions to be presented by:

- (i) Cllr Morley, on behalf of residents of Murton, calling for a 20 mph zone in their village.

- (ii) Cllr Potter, on behalf of residents of Heworth Ward objecting to the cutting of the no. 13 bus service.
- (iii) Cllr Runciman, on behalf of residents of Huntington concerned about speeding on New Lane.
- (iv) Cllr Douglas, on behalf of residents concerned about cycle track segregation on Crichton Avenue bridge.
- (v) Cllr Boyce, on behalf of Heworth residents objecting to care services no longer holding keys to customers' homes.
- (vi) Cllr Crisp, on behalf of residents objecting to commuter parking on Aldborough Way.
- (vii) Cllr Cregan, on behalf of residents of Hull Road asking the Council to apply for selective licensing powers over houses in multiple occupation in Hull Road Ward.

7. Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations (Pages 25 - 40)

To receive and consider a written report from the Leader on the work of the Executive, and the Executive recommendations for approval, as set out below:

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Executive	7 September 2010	Minute 61: <i>Capital Programme – Monitor 1</i> (to approve amendments to the programme)
Executive	21 September 2010	Minute 75 : <i>The Barbican Auditorium</i> (to approve financial implications for the capital programme)

Note: a report clarifying the above recommendation and containing information from the exempt annex 4 referred

to in the minute was published with this agenda on 5 October 2010.

Minute 76: Changing Executive Arrangements (to approve draft proposals for change)

- 8. Standards Committee Annual Report** (Pages 41 - 44)
To receive the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2009/10.
- 9. Recommendations of the Audit & Governance Committee** (Pages 45 - 46)
To consider the following recommendations for approval from the Audit & Governance Committee:

Date of Meeting	Recommendations
28 July 2010	Minute 22: <i>Proposed Constitutional Change to Article 5</i> (to approve changes to Article 5 of the Constitution, relating to the Lorc Mayoralty).

- 10. Recommendations of the Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee** (Pages 47 - 48)
To consider the following recommendations for approval from the Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee:

Date of Meeting	Recommendations
18 June 2010	Minute 5: <i>Review of Cumulative Impact Zone</i> (to approve changes to the CIZ boundary)

11. Recommendations of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee
(Pages 49 - 50)

To consider the following recommendations for approval from the Licensing & Regulatory Committee:

Date of Meeting	Recommendations
2 July 2010	Minute 7: Regulation of Sexual Entertainment Venues (<i>to approve the application of amendments to statutory regulations</i>)

12. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (Pages 51 - 54)

To receive a report from Councillor Galvin, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC.

13. Report of Executive Member (Pages 55 - 66)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Corporate Services, and to question the Executive Member thereon, provided any such questions are registered in accordance with the timescales and procedures set out in Standing Order 8.2.1.

14. Activities of Outside Bodies

Minutes of the following meetings of outside bodies, received since the last meeting of Council, have been made available for Members to view via the Council's website at

<http://sql003.york.gov.uk/mgListOutsideBodies.asp?bcr=1>

Copies may also be obtained by contacting Democracy Support Group at the Guildhall, York (tel. 01904 551088)

- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority – meeting on 23/06/10
- Quality Bus Partnership – meeting on 10/06/10
- Without Walls Partnership – meeting on 12/05/10
- NHS Foundation Trust – meeting on 21/04/10
- Economic Development Partnership Board – meeting on 20/05/10

Members are invited to put any questions to the Council's representatives on the above bodies, in accordance with Standing Order 10(b).

- 15. Appointments and Changes to Membership** (Pages 67 - 68)
To consider the appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies set out on the list attached to this summons.

16. Notices of Motion

To consider the following Notices of Motion under Standing Order 12:

A – Motions referred from the Executive in accordance with Standing Order 12.1(a)

None

B – Motions submitted for consideration directly by Council, in accordance with Standing Order 12.1(b)

(i) From Cllr Vassie

“Council notes the intention of the Coalition Government to hold a referendum on introducing the Alternative Vote system for United Kingdom General Elections.

Council also notes the commitment of the previous Labour Government to the introduction of voting reform for UK General Elections, the commitment of the Green Party to a fair voting system, and the commitment of the Liberal Democrat Party ‘to seek to include proportional representation for local government elections in England and Wales as part of the political reform programme of the coalition government.’

Council agrees that both national and local authority elections should employ a more proportional and representative voting system in order to better represent the voting intentions of their electorates.

Council therefore resolves to write to the Deputy Prime Minister to call on the Coalition Government to introduce a fair voting system for local elections as part of its package of political reforms and indicates Council's willingness to see a more proportional voting system employed in future local elections in York."

(ii) From Cllr Simpson-Laing

"Council is gravely concerned for the future of the Royal Mail Sorting Office in Leeman Road and deplores the recent announcement by Vince Cable MP, Business Secretary, to privatise the Royal Mail, which could hasten the proposed removal of First Class Mail sorting from York to Leeds.

Council is concerned at these recent announcements, given that :

- A recent YouGov Poll found a majority of voters of every major party opposed Royal Mail privatisation;
- Royal Mail is a market leader whose profits rose by 26 percent to £404m in 2010;
- A fully funded modernisation programme has been agreed by management and unions, in York and nationally, to bring stability to the company;
- Privatisation will lead to the separation of Royal Mail and the Post Office Network, putting the existence of many Post Offices in York and throughout the country at risk;
- Privatisation will put at risk the universal collection and delivery service for households and business, result in a reduction of post boxes, in York and nationally, and has the potential to harm the UK economy;
- The removal of mail sorting from York to Leeds is enormously wasteful in terms of transport and greenhouse gas emissions;
- The loss of the York Sorting Office jobs will impact on the York economy and affect the health and well being of workers and their families.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to:

- Write to the Royal Mail Chief Executive, Moya Greene, to express concerns on the impact of removing first class mail sorting from York to Leeds, and ask that the modernisation programme is allowed time to deliver its goals;
- Write to the Business Secretary and request a halt to the announced Royal Mail privatisation plans so that the recently agreed modernisation plans can be allowed to progress.”

(iii) From Cllr Gillies

"This Council welcomes the proposals recently put forward by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as part of its efforts to improve local transparency and accountability.

This Council therefore commits itself to complying with the DCLG recommendations and by 1st January 2011 at the latest will publish and continuing publishing online:

1. Details in full of total cumulative spending over £500;
2. Information on all posts paying over £50,000 per year (including details of benefits and expenses) and their job descriptions;
3. Councillor allowances and expenses in a real time rather than annual format.

None of the above shall include information that:

- a) Relates to a commercial agreement in negotiation;
- b) Is not publishable under the Data Protection Act;
- c) Relates to the protection of vulnerable adults and/or children.

This Council also pledges that this information shall be published at zero cost to the taxpayers, with its collation and presentation forming part of other processes already carried out by the Council.

With some of this information already available, the Council further pledges to make itself even more transparent by requiring that the various strands of information be collected and brought together on the Council website, with

a link on the front page, under the heading 'www.york.gov.uk/transparency' to make it easy for residents to find."

(iv) From Cllr Alexander

"Council believes that:

- Residents of houses in multiple occupation, including students, can be good neighbours and are valued members of communities. They often work locally and contribute positively to the local economy but sometimes can gain an unfair reputation.
- Some landlords are not living up to their responsibility to maintain properties in the interest of local residents and student tenants. Therefore the Council's Voluntary Code of Best Practice is not working.
- This affects community cohesion.

Council notes:

- The changes to householder profiles, particularly in council wards that surround York's higher education institutions.
- That the recently published Student Housing report was discussed at the Local development Framework Working Group on 6th September 2010, where the recommendation of the former Chair of Liberal Democrats Youth Wing was to do nothing on this issue.
- That 15% of all properties in Hull Road ward currently receive student council tax exemption.
- Hull Road ward residents' concerns about landlords not taking responsibility over the upkeep of their properties, to the detriment of local residents and student tenants.
- That by obtaining "Selective Licensing" powers from the Government, the Council would be able to license student properties.
- That in areas of Leeds where these powers are used, landlords have to prove they are a fit and proper person, and that their property meets certain conditions before they are granted a licence to rent out their properties. Landlords must ensure tenants

have appropriate references, keep their properties decent and ensure good management. A fine of £20,000 could result from anybody renting a property without a licence. If a landlord has a licence they can still be fined up to £5,000 if they fail to meet the conditions.

Council requests:

- The Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods to apply to the Conservative / Liberal Democrat Coalition Government for 'Selective Licensing' powers under part three of the Housing Act 2004 to license landlords in Hull Road ward, and other affected areas as appropriate, in the interests of both residents and student tenants."

(v) From Cllr Reid

"Council welcomes the announcement that 19 new Council homes are to be built on Lilbourne Drive, with funding from City of York Council and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Council also welcomes the fact that the new homes will be one of only a handful of projects nationally to achieve Code Level 5 sustainability, saving future residents money on energy bills and further enhancing York's reputation as a centre of excellence for eco construction.

Council notes that the new homes will be the first Council houses to be built in the city for 20 years, despite 13 years of the Labour government making numerous promises of support for new Council houses.

Council thanks officers for their hard work and commitment to taking the project forward at a time when opposition Councillors were busy talking down the chances of securing funding for the scheme.

Council resolves to ask the Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods to write to the Housing Minister to urge the government to do all they can to support further

construction of new Council houses in York.”

17. Questions to the Executive Leader and Executive Members received under Standing Order 10(c)

To deal with the following questions to the Executive Leader and / or other Executive Members, in accordance with Standing Order 11.3(a):

- (i) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Alexander:
“Will the Executive Leader agree to sign a joint letter with the Leader of the Opposition addressed to the Defence Secretary lobbying to maintain the presence and number of Ghurkhas at Imphal Barracks?”
- (ii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Alexander:
“On 6th July 2010 the Executive delegated power to set pay grading of assistant directors to the Head of Paid Services. Does the Leader think that in this current financial climate it is appropriate for the Executive to delegate senior pay levels to other senior officers?”
- (iii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Merrett:
“Would the Executive Leader explain why the long term assumption for the recycling rate in the proposed Waste PFI contract is so low?”
- (iv) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Crisp:
“Will the Executive Member agree that changes to non-recycling waste collections in Holgate and Westfield have been an unmitigated disaster for local residents?”
- (v) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Aspden:
“Can the Executive Member give Council an update on the progress with the roll out of the new three box recycling system and also give any indication of the effect of the new system on the amount of recycling collected?”
- (vi) To the Executive Member for Children & Young People’s Services, from Cllr Bowgett:
“Does the Executive Member believe that the possible

redirection of resources from local authority schools to free schools is an unwelcome piece of Government legislation?"

(vii) To the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services, from Cllr Wiseman:

"Would the Executive Member please inform the Council about the plans for Local Democracy Week?"

(viii) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Cregan:

"Can the Executive Member inform the Council of the response received from Sarah Teather on requesting York to keep some of the playbuilder funding earmarked for claw back?"

(ix) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion from Councillor Hogg:

"Can the Executive Member tell Council how visitor numbers for the new York Explore compare with the figures before the refurbishment?"

(x) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Brian Watson:

"Will the Executive member agree to postpone the publication of *Your City* until after the next local elections in order to avoid any allegations of it being used for political propaganda?"

(xi) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Alexander:

"Can you please direct me to where and when 'some Labour Councillors' have made 'contrary claims' to elderly people who are unable to walk to the nearest bus stop, being entitled to £50 worth of travel tokens?"

18. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer for this meeting:

Name: Fiona Young

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551027
- E-mail – fiona.young@york.gov.uk

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

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

Contact details are set out above.

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CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 15th July, 2010, starting at 6.30 pm

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

ACOMB WARD

Horton
Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

CLIFTON WARD

Douglas
Scott

DERWENT WARD

Brooks

DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD

Holvey
Reid
Sunderland

FISHERGATE WARD

Taylor

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker
B Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Firth
R Watson

HESLINGTON WARD

Jamieson-Ball

HEWORTH WARD

Boyce
Funnell
Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Bowgett
Crisp

HULL ROAD WARD

Pierce

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore
Watt
Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cregan, D'Agorne, Hogg, King and Kirk. Cllr Scott sent apologies for his late arrival at the meeting.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

The following **personal** interests were declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Alexander	12, Motion (v)	Member of the GMB
Ayre	12, Motion (v)	Member of the NUT and working at a school that has expressed interest in becoming an academy.
Bowgett	12, Motion (ii)	In receipt of family tax credit
Boyce	12, Motion (v)	Member of University union and a teacher at York College
Brooks	12, Motion (v)	Member of the Association of Lecturers and Teachers
Crisp	12, Motions (i) and (iii)	Retired member of UNISON
Douglas	12, Motion (ii)	In receipt of family tax credit
Fraser	12, Motions (i) and (iii)	Member of the retired section of UNISON and the retired section of the Acts Section of the T&GWU Section of Unite.
Gillies	6, Executive Minute 27	Daughter and son in law lifelong members of the York City Supporters Trust
Gunnell	12, Motion (iii)	Working in the voluntary sector
Merrett	12, Motion (ii)	In receipt of child benefit
Pierce	12, Motion (ii)	In receipt of family tax credit
Potter	12, Motion (ii)	In receipt of family tax credit
Simpson - Laing	12, Motion (i) 12, Motion (ii) 12, Motion (iii)	Member of UNISON In receipt of child benefit and tax credit Member of UNISON and working in the voluntary sector
Sunderland	12, Motion (iii)	Working in the voluntary sector
Vassie	12, Motion (ii)	In receipt of child benefit
B Watson	6, Executive Minute 27	Sponser of a player for York City Knights

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 8 April 2010 and the Annual Council meeting held on 27 May 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

15. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor announced receipt of the following, which were on view in the Council Chamber:

- A replica of the statue from the top of *La Giralda* bell tower, Seville Cathedral, a gift from the Deputy Mayor of Seville
- The Cliff Nicholson Award for innovation and excellence in put sector internal or external audit, awarded by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) to the Veritau Service, a partnership between City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

The Lord Mayor then reminded Members that the funeral service for Trooper Ashley Smith, a soldier from the Royal Dragoon Guards posted to Afghanistan, had been held that day in York Minster. She invited all present to stand and observe a minute's silence in memory of Trooper Smith and also in memory of Marine David Hart.

16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that seven members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Nick Parker spoke in support of the petition to be presented by Cllr Douglas in respect of safety measures on Haxby Road.

Patricia Dennison spoke in support of the petition to be presented by Cllr Funnell in respect of the no. 13 bus route.

Chris Brace spoke in support of reforming the voting system for local authority elections and called on the Council to ask the government to include this proposal in their referendum on national voting reform next May.

Anthony Long, Chair of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council, spoke in objection to the joint City of York Council / North Yorkshire County Council PFI proposals for a waste management site at Allerton.

Frank Ormston, representing the campaign 'A Stadium for York', spoke in support of the Executive recommendation to allocate additional funding to the Community Stadium project. He handed in a petition calling on the Council to do all it could to ensure the provision of a stadium by 2015.

Mark Warters submitted a series of written questions to Members in relation to land to the west of Metcalfe Lane (Derwenthorpe). He was advised that written responses would be supplied, in accordance with Standing Orders.

The seventh registered speaker, Shane Ellerton, did not attend the meeting.

17. PETITIONS

Under Standing Order 7, petitions were presented by:

- (i) Cllr Taylor, on behalf of residents calling for the introduction of a 20 mph zone in Danesmead and Fulford Cross, in the vicinity of the Steiner School / Danesgate. ¹
- (ii) Cllr Taylor, on behalf of residents calling for the introduction of a 20 mph zone outside Fishergate and St George's Schools. ²
- (iii) Cllr Douglas, on behalf of residents of Haxby Road, regarding road safety outside Haxby Road School. ³
- (iv) Cllr Alexander, on behalf of local residents, regarding a play area behind Kirkdale Road. ⁴
- (v) Cllr Crisp, on behalf of Holgate residents, regarding front of house refuse collections. ⁵
- (vi) Cllr Funnell, on behalf of residents asking to keep the number 13 bus service running in Heworth. ⁶
- (vii) Cllr Moore, on behalf of local residents calling for the Council to investigate the speed problems along Moorlands Road, Skelton, and implement measures to ensure the safety of residents. ⁷

RESOLVED: That the above petitions be referred to the Executive or appropriate committee.

Action Required

1-3 and 6-7: Schedule reports on Forward Plan and keep relevant Members updated on progress	SS
4&5: Schedule reports on Forward Plan and keep relevant Members updated on progress	KS

18. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the following recommendation, contained in Minute 27 of the Executive meeting on 6 July 2010:

"That Council approve the use of LAGBI money to the value of £198k to progress the scheme towards the procurement stage, with further costs being

reviewed as the project commences, subject to a future report back to the Executive or to full Council.”¹

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

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the following recommendation, contained in Minute 28 of the Executive meeting on 6 July 2010:

“That Council approve an increase of £1m in the capital programme for the York Sports Village Swimming Pool (from the existing £2m), this to be financed from prudential borrowing, with the consequential revenue implications of £71k being accepted as committed growth for the 2011/12 budget.”²

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the Executive on 6 July 2010 in respect of the Community Stadium Business Case and the York Sports Village Swimming Pool, as recorded in Minutes 27 and 28 of that meeting, be approved.

Action Required

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Use LAGBI funds to progress the scheme and schedule an update report on Executive Forward Plan | TA |
| 2. Make the agreed change to the Capital Programme budget | LB-W |

19. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

As Vice Chair of the Standards Committee, Cllr Horton moved, and Cllr Hudson seconded, the recommendation made by that committee on 25 June 2010 in respect of the Annual Monitor of Member Training and Development.

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendation be approved and that the Annual Monitor of Member Training and Development be received.

20. SCRUTINY - ANNUAL REPORT

Council received the Annual Scrutiny Report from Cllr Galvin, Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee.

21. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

A written report was received from Cllr Runciman, the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services.

Notice had been received of two questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The questions were put and answered as follows:

(i) From Cllr Aspden:

"Can the Executive Member report on the progress of the re-build of Rawcliffe with Clifton Without Federated School?"

The Executive Member replied:

"I am delighted to report that the first turf was turned last Friday by the youngest boy, the youngest girl and the oldest boy, accompanied by Cllr Waudby, myself and representatives of Shepherds, the contractors. The children were very excited by the whole event and the prospect of seeing the new school being built.

This is a project that has been long awaited by the local community and it is good to report that it is unaffected by any of the recent cuts in the government's capital programme.

I am looking forward to being there on the day it opens."

(ii) From Cllr Jamieson-Ball:

"Is the Executive Member able to give Council the indicative overall results for this year's SATs at Key Stage 2?"

The Executive Member replied:

"At this stage we only have the provisional results for this year's KS2 SATs, but they are looking promising, with some improvements from last year. Some re-marks have been requested but it looks as if all the hard work of the schools, supported by the local authority's Education Development Service, may have paid off. I'd like to thank everyone, children, staff and parents alike, for all the effort they have put in during the year and await the final results with interest."

The Executive Member agreed to provide written responses after the meeting to a further four questions of which notice had been received, but which did not relate to the written report.

22. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Minutes of the following meetings of outside bodies had been made available for Members to view on the Council's website:

- North Yorkshire Police Authority – meeting on 5 February 2010
- Quality Bus Partnership – meeting on 23 March 2010
- Safer York Partnership – meetings on 1 February and 21 June 2010
- Without Walls Partnership – meeting on 11 February 2010
- NHS Foundation Trust – meeting on 16 March 2010

- York & North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership – meeting on 4 March 2010
- Economic Partnership / Skills Board – meeting on 13 January 2010

No questions had been submitted to representatives on the above bodies.

23. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED: That the appointments to and changes to membership of committees, outside bodies and working groups set out on the revised list circulated around the Council Chamber (and attached as an annex to these minutes) be approved.

24. MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Alexander moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, a motion to suspend Standing Orders to enable an urgent motion to be moved on behalf of the Labour Group.

A named vote was requested and taken on the motion to suspend, as follows:

For	Against	Abstained
Cllr Alexander	Cllr Aspden	
Cllr Bowgett	Cllr Ayre	
Cllr Boyce	Cllr Brooks	
Cllr Crisp	Cllr Firth	
Cllr Douglas	Cllr Steve Galloway	
Cllr Fraser	Cllr Sue Galloway	
Cllr Funnell	Cllr Galvin	
Cllr Gunnell	Cllr Gillies	
Cllr Horton	Cllr Healey	
Cllr Looker	Cllr Holvey	
Cllr Merrett	Cllr Hudson	
Cllr Pierce	Cllr Hyman	
Cllr Potter	Cllr Jamieson-Ball	
Cllr Simpson-Laing	Cllr Moore	
Cllr Taylor	Cllr Morley	
Cllr B Watson	Cllr Orrell	
	Cllr Reid	
	Cllr Runciman	
	Cllr Sunderland	
	Cllr Vassie	
	Cllr Waller	
	Cllr R Watson	
	Cllr Watt	
	Cllr Waudby	
	Cllr Wiseman	
16	26	0

The motion was accordingly declared LOST and it was

RESOLVED: That Standing Orders not be suspended to allow the urgent motion to be put.

25. NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) "Your Freedom" Consultation

It was moved by Cllr Waller and seconded by Cllr Runciman that:

"Council welcomes the coalition government's action to restore freedoms for local people and local authorities that had been reduced by the Labour government centralising power in Whitehall.

Council welcomes the moves to cut red tape for local authorities and restore freedom in local decision making. Council feels that the abolition of centrally driven inspection regimes will allow local authorities to focus on delivering services that meet the needs of local people, rather than spending time ticking boxes as demanded by central government.

Council also supports the initiative put forward by the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg MP, encouraging people to have their say on repealing unnecessary laws and restoring individual freedoms.

Council urges York residents to take part in the Your Freedom consultation and resolves to promote the consultation to residents using the City of York Council website."¹

Cllr Alexander then moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

"In the first paragraph, delete the words *'the Labour government'* and substitute *'successive governments'*.

In the second paragraph, remove the full stop at the end of the first sentence and insert the words *'but has concerns about abolishing guaranteed minimum national standards.'* Delete all after *'Council feels that'* in the second sentence and insert *'councils without possible inspection will lead to less openness about quality of services, less accountability and reductions in levels of service.'*

In the third paragraph, after the word *'restoring'* insert *'empowering'* and after *'individual freedoms'* insert *'so long as this will not be detrimental to the well-being of an individual, group or animal.'*"

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

The original motion was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.¹

(ii) Central Government Cuts to Local Authority Funding

Cllr Alexander moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, that:

“This Council notes:

1. That the Council is making £7m savings this financial year, which includes redundancies;
2. That the Coalition Government announced on Thursday 10th June £2.8m of cuts to the Council budget, including almost £1m in education and £1m in transport;
3. That the Coalition Government announced in the budget on Tuesday 22nd June an increase in VAT to 20%, despite pre-election pledges from both coalition partners not to do this;
4. That an increase in VAT will cost the Council at least £150k per annum;
5. The Coalition Government's cut to North Yorkshire Police of £1.1m;
6. The Coalition Government's review of £23m allocated to York for Park & Ride provision;
7. That the Coalition Government have announced a two-year public sector pay freeze, cuts in child tax credits for families on a moderate income, freezing child benefit, cutting disability living allowance, cuts in the housing benefit of the unemployed, abolishing the health in pregnancy grant, restricting the sure-start maternity grant to the first child and scrapping tax relief for the video games industry;
8. That the Coalition Government have abolished Regional Development Agencies, when Yorkshire Forward was helping, amongst other developments, the stalled York Central development, the Renaissance project and the Minster Piazza project;
9. That the Council is planning a further £10m of cuts in the next financial year.

This Council resolves:

1. To recognise that the current financial situation of the Council is made worse by recent cuts and announcements from the Coalition Government;
2. To request the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer stating this;
3. To request the Chief Executive to write to both of York's MPs calling on them to lobby against further cuts.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion not be approved.

(iii) 'More for York' Programme

Cllr Healey moved, and Cllr Gillies seconded, that:

“Whereas:

- Thirteen years of a high-spending Labour government coupled with international economic instability has left the country in extremely difficult economic circumstances regarding the money available for public expenditure; and
- In the coming 2011-2012 fiscal year CYC will be facing a reduced grant settlement combined with a mandatory low or a zero council tax rise, resulting in substantial additional fiscal pressures well beyond those addressed by the More4York programme

Therefore, this Council instructs the Executive to provide to all Council Members, before 16 November 2010, details of the More for York programme, its contribution to meeting savings targets for 2011/12, broad details of savings areas in individual directorates and full details of the extent to which the More for York programme will meet the financial targets in 2011/12, in order to:²

- build an understanding across York regarding the economic choices facing the city and
- allow our staff, private and voluntary sector partners the opportunity to propose potential alternative delivery measures.”

Cllr Gunnell then moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

In the first paragraph, first bullet point, delete all from *'Thirteen years'* to *coupled with'*.

In the second paragraph:

- add to the end of the first bullet point *'how this will affect residents' daily lives and'*
- in the second bullet point, after *'our staff'* insert *'the Unions and'* and after *'delivery measures'* add *'and provide them with realistic funding information and service quality expectations so that there is an understanding of service requirements.'*”

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

The original motion was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.²

(iv) Former Peaseholme Centre

Cllr Brian Watson moved, and Cllr Boyce seconded, that:

“Council condemns the demolition of the former Peaseholme Centre and asks the Executive to agree to reserve the site for public use.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared LOST and it was
RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion not be approved.

At this point in the meeting the guillotine fell and the remaining business was moved, seconded and voted on without debate.

(v) The Future Role of Local Authorities in Education

Cllr Runciman moved, and Cllr Firth seconded, that:

“This Council acknowledges:

- The excellent results achieved by students in schools across the City and the hard work of children, staff and parents to gain those results
- The significant role of local authority officers in challenging and supporting schools to drive up and maintain standards
- The importance of the ‘family’ of York schools, working together co-operatively to support and help each other in the best interests of all York’s children.

Council notes the recent representations by the Local Government Association with all-party support, stating that:

- The strategic role of the local authority should be retained within the forthcoming Academies Bill
- That local authorities should retain responsibility for improving and maintaining standards in all schools
- That local authorities should continue to ensure fair access to school places, appropriate provision according to numbers of children and
- Ensure by careful scrutiny that public money is used wisely and not wasted.

Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State supporting the views of the LGA and stating:

- That, particularly in a unitary authority the size of the City of York, the local authority’s role in maintaining and strengthening the family of schools is vital and should remain
- That experience in managing the local education system is one of the most important contributing factors to the success of local schools and that they should not be centrally controlled
- That there should continue to be clear local accountability through the local authority and the knowledge that elected Members bring to the education of the City’s children
- That all these significant factors should be taken into account during the development of the Academies Bill as it progresses through Parliament.”³

Cllr Pierce then moved, and Cllr Looker seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“Add the following paragraph to the end of the motion:

- *‘Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education condemning the ending of the ‘Building Schools for the Future’ funding and the detrimental effect it will have on the education of generations of York’s children.’”*

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

The original motion was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved. ³

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Make arrangements to promote the 'Your Freedom' consultation on the Council website | KE |
| 2. Provide details of More for York programme to all Members, as agreed | TC |
| 3. Write to the Secretary of State for Education in the terms agreed | PD |

26. QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.3(A)

Fourteen questions had been submitted to Executive Members under Standing Order 11.3(a). The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written answers to their questions, as set out below:

- (i) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:
“Will the Executive Member for City Strategy join with me in expressing great disappointment at the cut to the funding for Park & Ride sites at Askham Bar, the A59 and Wigginton Road and will he inform Council what action he is taking to get his government to reverse this situation?”

Reply

The funding for the Access York Phase 1 scheme has not been cut but suspended pending a review of the entire programme. It is understood that progress on all of the Transport Major Schemes across the country (approximately 60) which had not already commenced has been halted pending the spending review and update of the government's scheme prioritisation methodology.

The Park & Ride scheme has a relatively low cost, a high value for money (when assessed against the previous criteria) and excellent sustainability credentials. It is therefore anticipated that funding for the scheme will be released once the review is complete however delivery of the full package may be over a longer timeframe than originally anticipated.

Alternative funding sources are being investigated but the low level of match funding (10%) available locally severely restricts options. Lobbying of the relevant Minister will be pursued however it is highly unlikely that there will be any movement until the funding and prioritisation parameters are finalised in the autumn.

- (ii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D'Agorne:
 "Regarding Fulford Road public transport improvements, what is the average inbound bus journey time now, compared with the experience prior to the changes to the layout?"

Reply

Here is the data for service 7 showing the average AM Peak (0700-0930) timings inbound on Fulford Rd on two comparable weeks in June 2009 & 2010.

The figures shown in the 'Actual Run Time' section are the average number of minutes elapsed since departing the Park & Ride site. The figures in the 'Dwell time' section are the average time in minutes spent at each stop.

At a glance, it appears that buses are taking longer on average to get from the site to Fulford Main St, but moving along Fulford Rd substantially faster than in 2009

However it is perhaps a little early to draw too many conclusions as the change has not really had time to bed down yet. Further checks will be made later in the year.

Service:		7									
Day:		Mon to Fri									
Time Category:		AMPeak									
		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		15/06/2009	16/06/2009	17/06/2009	18/06/2009	19/06/2009	14/06/2010	15/06/2010	16/06/2010	17/06/2010	18/06/2010
Actual Run Time	Main Street (32900252)	5.74	5.77	5.90	5.76	4.68	5.86	7.17	6.38	5.93	5.86
	Fulford Church (32900245)	7.03	7.43	7.68	7.67	6.15	6.65	8.63	7.42	7.33	6.93
	The Gimcrack (32900242)	8.99	9.18	10.54	10.02	8.47	7.92	10.72	8.87	9.05	8.33
	Imphal Barracks (32900241)	10.20	10.11	12.05	11.55	9.78	8.76	11.95	9.99	10.19	9.53
	Alma Terrace (32900177)	11.81	11.52	13.96	13.32	11.30	10.18	13.66	11.42	11.46	10.93
Dwell Time	Main Street (32900252)	0.21	0.22	0.08	0.22	0.08	0.18	0.01	0.20	0.25	0.17
	Fulford Church (32900245)	0.36	0.51	0.63	0.70	0.50	0.20	0.26	0.31	0.49	0.37
	The Gimcrack (32900242)	0.78	0.49	1.00	0.62	0.68	0.44	0.56	0.51	0.54	0.29
	Imphal Barracks (32900241)	0.39	0.19	0.35	0.56	0.46	0.20	0.13	0.34	0.12	0.23
	Alma Terrace (32900177)	0.41	0.31	0.23	0.38	0.27	0.45	0.23	0.25	0.31	0.33

- (iii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D'Agorne:
 "Regarding Fulford Road public transport improvements, has there been any significant increase in the outbound journey time since the changes?"

Reply

Service:	7										
Day:	Mon to Fri										
Time Category:	PM Peak (1500-1800)										
Direction:	Outbound	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		22/06/2009	23/06/2009	24/06/2009	25/06/2009	26/06/2009	21/06/2010	22/06/2010	23/06/2010	24/06/2010	25/06/2010
Actual Run Time	Alma Terrace (32900178)	30.47	28.65	29.45	31.96	41.11	32.12	31.43	28.84	30.70	32.24
	Imphal Barracks (32900240)	32.23	29.93	30.83	33.28	42.71	33.87	32.94	29.84	32.49	33.85
	Broadway Top (32900243)	33.57	31.13	32.27	34.80	44.07	35.09	34.31	30.83	34.20	35.01
	Fulford Church (32900244)	34.40	32.13	33.45	35.76	44.87	36.00	35.42	31.75	35.42	36.01
	Main Street (32900253)	35.18	33.01	34.41	37.39	46.36	36.67	36.64	32.63	36.33	36.82
Dwell Time	Alma Terrace (32900178)	0.61	0.15	0.09	0.09	0.22	0.19	0.27	0.16	0.18	0.28
	Imphal Barracks (32900240)	0.32	0.14	0.19	0.09	0.18	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.24	0.08
	Broadway Top (32900243)	0.18	0.11	0.23	0.34	0.10	0.05	0.20	0.10	0.29	0.10
	Fulford Church (32900244)	0.39	0.53	0.56	0.37	0.23	0.33	0.53	0.40	0.53	0.42
	Main Street (32900253)	0.08	0.04	0.13	0.11	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.00

- (iv) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D'Agorne:
 "Regarding Fulford Road public transport improvements, what further action is proposed to reduce the illegal air quality levels at the junction of Main Street and Heslington Lane?"

Reply

As I have explained previously, the Executive responsibility for air quality management rest with the Neighbourhoods Directorate at present.

On the narrow issue of public transport contributions to air quality I would comment that the period from 2008 to the present day has seen a significant improvement to the quality of bus providing services on Fulford Road.

In brief:

- Park & Ride (7): New, Euro V (EEV) buses brought in to service Autumn 2008 with lower NOX, CO and Particulate Matter emissions levels than the previous vehicles.*

- *Arriva, route 415: New, Euro V (EEV) double deck buses brought in to service October 2009 - impact as above.*
- *Transdev, route 24/26, Euro IV buses brought in to replace the previous owners' collection of older vehicles - impact as above.*
- *Plans for the next year or two include looking to increase the minimum emission standards for school and local bus services (both being retendered in 2011) to Euro II / III respectively.*

(v) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Kirk:

"Would the Executive Member confirm that the recent coalition government announcement about the abolition of the RSS imposed housing number targets means that the City's draft green belt is now free from the threat of development?"

Reply

On the 6th July the Secretary of state for communities in the Coalition Government announced the revocation of Regional Strategies (RSSs) with immediate effect.

He made the announcement in a letter sent to chief planning officers in Local Planning Authorities across England. It included the guidance highlighted below.

Local planning authorities will be responsible for establishing the right level of local housing provision in their area, and identifying a long term supply of housing land without the burden of regional housing targets. Some authorities may decide to retain their existing housing targets that were set out in the revoked Regional Strategies. Others may decide to review their housing targets. We would expect that those authorities should quickly signal their intention to undertake an early review so that communities and land owners know where they stand.

It is important for the planning process to be transparent, and for people to be able to understand why decisions have been taken. Local authorities should continue to collect and use reliable information to justify their housing supply policies and defend them during the LDF examination process. They should do this in line with current policy in PPS3.

Local planning authorities should continue to use their plans to identify sufficient sites and broad areas for development to deliver their housing ambitions for at least 15 years from the date the plan is adopted. Authorities should also have a five year land supply of deliverable sites. This too will need to reflect any changes to the overall local housing ambition.

We are currently considering the implications of the changes to the national planning system for our Local Development Framework including what this means in terms of setting long term Green Belt boundaries.

My view is, though, that our future plans can be fashioned to ensure that the draft green belt boundaries are confirmed and that our intention to do so will be subject to a decision by the Council's Executive in the early autumn.

- (vi) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Horton:
 “Can the Executive Member for City Strategy comment on the current running reliability of the ftr, whether this meets agreements made between the City of York Council in 2006 and how he plans to ensure that First improve service reliability, with particular concern to early morning running?”

Reply

I am aware that there was an incident a few weeks go which prompted a resident to complain about the non arrival of the early 6:30am service. I believe that First have written to eh complainant apologising My understanding is that the issue related to the non availability of staff.

The sheet below shows the deviation from the scheduled times. As the sheet demonstrates, in the vast majority of cases, the services are operating within the Traffic Commissioner's designated 'on-time' window of 1min early to 5 mins late. The Council is currently working with First to introduce a Punctuality Improvement Partnership which will place responsibilities on both First and the Council to further improve the reliability of services.

Both parties are now using the real time data made available through the Bus Operator Reports software to pinpoint where and when the delays are occurring to alter timetables and consider improvements to junctions/bus priority measures, etc. First have recently undertaken work to improve the reliability of route 5 using data from the Real Time system and corresponding tweaks are being made to the timetable which will improve the service performance and the Council will encourage First to take a similar approach to route 4 services.

4
Timing Point
AMPeak

Percentage of journeys tracked (%)	Average deviation from schedule at timing points (minutes)						
	Acomb Green (32901557)	Turnmire Road (32900057)	Rail Station (32900134)	Uni Science Pk (32900280)	Heslington Hall (32900279)	York Station Stop D (32900145)	Thanet Spts (329000)
100	-1	3	2	-0	0	2	
100	-1	2	1	-2	1	1	
92	2	4	4	2	3	4	
92	-2	2	1	-2	10	1	
100	-1	3	1	-2	1	1	
100	-1	3	4	3	2	4	
85	-1	2	10	1	10	1	
100	5	4	4	3	2	2	
92	-1	2	1	-1	1	1	
100	-0	4	1	-2	1	2	
86	-1	26	1	-3	2	0	

92	-1	3	2	2	2	2
100	-1	3	2	4	2	3
100	-1	3	3	2	1	3
92	-0	2	1	1	1	2
77	-0	1	3	7	4	5
82	-2	3	1	-2	0	2
100	-2	2	1	-4	4	0
77	-1	3	4	1	2	2
100	-0	2	2	1	2	1
100	-1	3	1	-0	1	2
100	-1	3	1	0	2	3
77	-1	4	2	2	2	3
91	-0	5	2	-0	1	3
100	-0	3	1	-4	1	1
100	-0	3	2	2	2	2
85	-1	3	2	-0	2	2
100	-2	3	0	-0	1	1

(vii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Firth:

“In view of the promise by the newly elected Member of Parliament for the Outer York Constituency that he would ensure that funding was made available to provide a dual carriageway on the line of the A1237 northern by pass, would the Executive Member for City Strategy indicate how much additional funding for transport has been made available to York as a result of the MPs representations?”

Reply

No additional transport funding has been allocated to the Council since the election.

Until the spending review is complete and the mechanism for distribution of funding finalised it is not expected that there will be any opportunity for the submission of a bid for funding for the improvement of the Outer Ring Road. The Access York Phase 2 funding bid to the Regional Transport Board, which included improvements to the Outer Ring Road roundabouts, was allocated to the reserve list of schemes in the regional programme due to the funding being oversubscribed. The submission of a formal bid to the DfT was not permitted unless the scheme was identified in the programme.

When investigated in 2008 the full dualling of the ring road, including grade separated junctions, did not meet the value for money criteria identified in the previous guidance for major scheme business cases. In addition there were concerns over the environmental impact of such significant capacity improvements which could lead to substantial increases in traffic levels and greenhouse gas emissions.

It is anticipated that the projects which are already in the major scheme system will be reviewed first leaving limited resources for new schemes. It is also not clear whether the regional allocation system will continue under the new arrangements. The options for bidding for

funds for upgrading the ring road will be investigated immediately the revised guidance for major schemes is published.

- (viii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:
“Will the Executive Member for City Strategy write to the Transport Minister and support his call to introduce a 20 mph speed limit to all town centres and residential streets across the country?”

Reply

No

- (ix) To the Executive Member for City Strategy from Cllr Keith Orrell:
“Would the Executive Member for City Strategy pass on the congratulations of the Council to all who have been involved in reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the City by 36% during the last 2 years?”

Reply

I am pleased to record the Council's thanks to all this who have contributed towards this major improvement in accident figures. Continuation of this trend would mean that the cost to the community in both financial and emotions senses would be greatly reduced.

- (x) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D'Agorne:
“What is the projected impact on recycling rates for 2011-12 and 2012-13 of the roll-out of kerbside recycling and fortnightly collection being extended to all properties?”

Reply

The recycling roll-out will be completed by December 2010. The impact has already been accounted for in our projections, which, along with waste minimisation, is targeted to reduce the waste going to landfill by 6.8% from current levels.

- (xi) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:
“Will the Executive Member indicate whether she will write to the Housing and Communities Ministers to request that they do not hold up the Housing Revenue Account review, initiated by the former Housing Minister John Healy MP, so that the building of much needed council housing is not held up?”

Reply

The Council is committed to ensuring that the HRA review is completed quickly & comprehensively as possible to ensure the best possible outcome for our tenants.

On the 22nd June 2010, the Executive approved the draft response to the consultation on the HRA Subsidy Review, indicating that we wished to voluntary opt out of the current system, despite this meaning the Council will take on approximately £90m of additional debt. It is clear that the coalition government are committed to reviewing the existing

subsidy system, which currently see York lose in excess of £6m per annum of its rental income. At this stage I feel that our response, which included some suggestions that would be beneficial to York is sufficient to indicate our desire to build new Council houses.

- (xii) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D'Agorne:

"What work has been done on developing a waste reduction alternative to the 25 year PFI waste treatment plants proposed for York and North Yorkshire for this authority to consider before committing to the contract?"

Reply

York signed up to the Waste PFI process a number of years ago which has brought us to the position we are now at. The York and North Yorkshire Partnership have been monitoring the markets for the last 8 years. York is committed to waste minimisation, re-use and recycling, and will continue to strive for improvement, but the treatment plant with its Mechanical Treatment front end, its Aerobic Digester and the energy from waste plant is a very creative solution that give York the certainty that it can meet the Government's and European landfill diversion targets. It gives York certainty that it will not incur huge financial penalties for failure to divert.

- (xiii) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D'Agorne:

"What additional annual costs will face the Council:

- a) to pay for the loans and
- b) to pay if the volume of waste is less than projected over the lifetime of the contract?"

Reply

- a) *No loans have been taken out by the Council.*
- b) *The project has been built on guidance given by DEFRA and the Treasury and they are comfortable with our projections. There is significant flexibility in the waste volumes expected to be processed.*

- (xiv) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

"Will the Executive Member pledge to residents in private rented accommodation in York that they will not lose their homes when the cuts to Housing Benefit take place, and will she outline how the Council will protect these residents?"

Reply

This is really a question for the Executive Member for Resources as Housing Benefit is in his remit but I will attempt to answer it as follows:- The Council cannot restrain action by private landlords to seek eviction if there are rent arrears. The Council can of course, through our Housing service, encourage a constructive dialogue with private landlords to adopt a more sensitive approach. We can also publicise

the changes, direct customers to appropriate sources of support and assistance and inform individual customers of the likely impact on them. Unfortunately this detail cannot be provided as yet as the guidance on the impending changes is awaited.

In terms of financial help from the Benefits Service we could use the Discretionary Housing Payment Fund as appropriate and whilst we are informed that DHP funding will increase by 50% nationally in 2011/12, this fund is currently under significant pressure and the Council has to contribute to it to meet current and increasing demand (subject to a fixed maximum ceiling).

Our services will work together to ensure we provide as much support as we can to our customers who are affected by these changes.

Cllr Sue Galloway

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.00 pm]

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Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

Committees/Working Groups

Audit & Governance Committee

To appoint:

Cllr Waudby as first LD substitute, in place of Cllr Jamieson-Ball
Cllr Orrell as second LD substitute, in place of Cllr R Watson

Member Development Steering Group

To appoint the following additional Members to the Group:

Green	(1)	Cllr D'Agorne	
		Cllr Taylor	substitute

Appointments Panel for Assistant Director posts

(Panel of 3 to be selected from the following pool, on a 1-1-1 basis)

Lib Dem	(7)	Cllr Ayre
		Cllr Steve Galloway
		Cllr Moore
		Cllr Morley
		Cllr Reid
		Cllr Runciman
		Cllr Waller

Labour	(7)	Cllr Alexander
		Cllr Crisp
		Cllr Gunnell
		Cllr King
		Cllr Pierce
		Cllr Potter
		Cllr Simpson-Laing

Conservative	(7)	Cllr Brooks
		Cllr Galvin
		Cllr Gillies
		Cllr Healey
		Cllr Hudson
		Cllr Watt
		Cllr Wiseman

Outside Bodies

Adoption Panel

To appoint Cllr Wiseman to the Panel, in place of Cllr Morley (*starting October 2010*)

Charity of Jane Wright

To note the resignation of Mrs Dorothy Cooper

York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership

To note that this group has now re-formed as the York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership Executive, attended by Officers with Member engagement through an annual conference.

Report of the Executive Leader to Full Council Meeting 7th October 2010Local Enterprise Partnerships

The development of bids for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) has kept many people busy this summer with a deadline of expressions of interest being 6th September. The driver for this has been the policy by the new coalition government to remove the Regional Development Agencies.

For York this has seen the enhancement of connections with the Leeds City Region, and due to our strong engagement with business in the city we were able to ensure that events like the launch of the Innovation Capital Programme at the Merchant Adventurers on 29th July promoted York's contribution to the LCR LEP bid. However, many businesses have supported a connection with the York and North Yorkshire LEP bid as they see the tourist, retail and food sectors as having considerable connection to North Yorkshire. We must also recognise the large travel to work populations for the city's economy from the parts of North Yorkshire outside of LCR and also from the East Riding.

Barbican Auditorium

The Executive received a report on 20th July 2010 relating to the progress on the Barbican auditorium which was updated in September. It has taken a great deal of time and effort to reach the point that we are now in to ensure that the building will again be open to the public next year.

By not being overly prescriptive in setting the criteria we were able to allow operators to develop plans for the building which now result in these proposals which will see the auditorium used for a wide range of activities, as well as operation as a conference venue.

I am pleased that this thorough procurement process has brought us to the point where we were able to agree a preferred bidder on 21st September. SMG (Europe) are an operator with considerable experience in the country and will be able to put the Barbican on the touring map for a wide range of acts.

Officers have done a great deal of hard work in the last few months and there has been extensive dialogue with a number of strong bidders, representing some of the largest names in the UK and international market.

Through this dialogue we were able to clearly state the ambitions of this Executive, not least among which were a major entertainments facility that did not rely on long term revenue subsidy and also brought significant investment to the city.

It is worth noting, that allowing for inflation the Barbican was costing the authority in the region of £730k per annum and had no provision set aside for the necessary major investment to the fabric of the building.

The proposal we see today combines all of those criteria the Executive set out. The indicative programme that SMG have demonstrated as part of their bid shows the extensive contacts they have within the live entertainment field. It is good to see they are also interested in bringing live sport back to the Barbican. In the past this proved popular with residents and players and hopefully SMGs link will see such events return to the city.

Also this bid will see community groups such as the Festival of Remembrance and the Carol Concert enjoy the same benefits as they had previously. The Executive has been unwavering in their support for these institutions in recent years and ensured this was integral to any dialogue with interested bidders. I believe SMG have gone even further with this and shown a real willingness to engage with community groups on numerous levels to encourage participation in the newly opened centre.

Headquarters Project

The Executive received an update in July on the progress that has been made with the council's Headquarters Project. The long term savings for the council tax payer are still featuring in the business development. Plans are now in place for the planned departure from buildings such as De Grey House which will allow the development of the Theatre Royal plans for that part of the Cultural Quarter.

It was unfortunate to see such a late intervention by the Victorian Society in the planning process after so much time and effort had gone into working with English Heritage and the Civic Trust along with other organisations in the city.

Building Council Housing !

I am pleased to report that we received support from the Homes and Communities Agency for our plans to build York's first council houses in over 20 years. The development will see nine two-bed homes and 10 three -bed homes built to top environmental standards. The proposed development is one of only a handful nationally that will achieve the code level 5 rating for sustainability.

A code rating of 5 is the second highest rating available under the rating system devised by the Department for Communities and Local Government. It means the houses have double the sustainability rating of standard building regulations. This is developing York's reputation for eco-construction.

The Homes and Communities Agency will be providing £1.12m to support the project.

Sir Bob Kerslake Chief Executive of the HCA visited York on 3rd September and he was shown progress at the Discus Bungalow replacement project, and pilot homes on Temple Avenue by Joseph Rowntree Housing in preparation for the Derwenthorpe development.



St Ann's Court building site for the supported living centre (Sir Bob Kerslake on right)



Pilot House – Temple Avenue

Winter Maintenance Policy

The Executive received the Final Report of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July and a wider ranging report which it commissioned itself.

The Executive review looked more specifically at concerns expressed by residents and Councillors in relation to network treatment (carriageway and footway) in order to establish a secondary network, problems in contacting the Council at evenings and weekends, provision of information to residents, establishing a cross Council response to severe weather and treating cycleways. A review of the network has resulted in the recommendation that we make minor changes to the coverage.

There were also areas that would have benefited from self help salt but which do not need a bin in a normal winter. Officers propose that we use builders sacks to provide a temporary solution. These have the advantage that they can be filled at the depot and lifted off the back of a lorry. They take up little storage space when empty. Parish Councils and Ward Committees will be consulted on locations for both permanent and temporary self help salt supplies.

Contact with the Council last winter was difficult at weekends and evenings and although by the end of the severe weather this had improved, a major part of this review investigated ways to ensure that there were systems in place that could be activated quickly. YCC are looking at ways of utilising home working, the Warden Call service and the Police control room to make this happen and the technology is in place to allow calls to be diverted directly to the highways section at the Ecodepot.



Salt Barn at Eco Depot – there is more salt in it now !

Communication with residents was also reviewed. The highways team now have access to the CYC website and can update that as the situation changes. The "Clearing snow and ice" leaflet will be updated with publicity on Your Ward and Your City, self help bin locations will be on the web and daily updates sent to members as necessary. An open day at the Ecodepot will take place on 10th October in order that residents can see plans and equipment for themselves.

Improvements to treating cycleways continues to be a challenge as the low level of use doesn't activate the salt. Cycling City money has been used to purchase a specialised Euromec vehicle which can be used on the off road cycle paths. Officers are working with the cycling officer to identify the most heavily used commuter roads for priority treatment.

A winter Maintenance Group has been established to ensure cross Council and multi agency working. They will decide on the use of resources, when the secondary routes should be treated, that the needs of vulnerable groups are considered and that appropriate information is cascaded. Any recommendations are subject to the outcomes of the National Resilience Review which are due in September.

I would again like to thank all our staff who worked so hard to keep the city moving last winter. This review has identified the gaps, offers solutions and gives a framework for the future that should allow the Council to provide an even better service to our residents in times of severe weather.

Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee

The Executive received the final report from the Traffic Congestion Ad hoc Scrutiny Committee in its fourth year of consideration. There was clearly some debate about the public opinion survey, and the way in which residents could express their views about a unilateral congestion charge for the city.

The Executive noted the contents of the report, the results from the survey, and made the request that officers should respond to key parts of the report whilst preparing the next Local Transport Plan.

Apprenticeships.

The Executive received the report from the Effective Organisation Overview and Scrutiny Committee into CYC Apprenticeships and work based learning. The new coalition government has stated its support for the apprenticeships scheme and the continuation of funding allocated for such opportunities.

It is good to know that a cross council steering group is being set up and I am sure that they will be able to build on work already in progress both within the council and in local training providers such as York College.

Recycling

The council has been successful in maintaining the downward trend in the volume of waste (recycled and landfill combined) put out by the households of the city. The Executive wanted to respond to residents in parts of the city where recycling had been rolled out in terraced areas where there were not the same views as developed during the pilot in the Groves area. At the insistence of the Executive there has been a thorough consultation with residents which has taken into account local geography,

situations such as alleygating, and re-configuring the recycling collections in some areas. Collections have been adjusted accordingly.



Area Based Working

This follows on from a report in July 2009 proposing area based working. The geographically compact nature of the city reduces the ability to achieve economies of scale and could lead to dilution of standards and expertise and uneven service delivery. The proposal is therefore to an enhanced strategic co-ordination role with a dedicated neighbourhood management team. The area will cover 6 wards and represent rural, suburban, inner city and areas of deprivation. The pilot should encourage improved service standards and better partnership working and Acomb Explore will be used as a hub.

The current working practices will continue across the rest of the city and resources won't be diverted to support the pilot.

The key will be monitoring and evaluation but it is felt that 6 months will be too soon to bring back a report and that 9 months or a year would be better.

Capital Programme.

The 2010/11 budget is significantly greater than that just finished, remaining ambitious and seeking to build on the developments already achieved by the administration. The face of the city has been transformed over the years, and this programme will produce more services for residents and tourists alike.

The request for a release of £25k to Strensall Parish Council is a result of a resolution made in June 2005, when the former Youth Club Premises in Strensall were sold. A scheme has been developed with the Youth Service and Neighbourhood Policing Team, which will provide much needed youth facilities in Strensall.

The Executive considered how to build on the budget consultation process, and the considerable appetite for detail from the public and business. Clearly the emphasis is about saving money, and as there will not be a consultation document going out at

the same time (previously the government required consultation on cycling and Transport in previous years have been combined) therefore a range of communications are planned.

CCTV

In September the Executive considered a report on the operation of the CCTV system in the city. The 70-camera CCTV network has generally been a success story in York producing several examples where crime was either prevented or culprits apprehended quickly.

The cameras also are used to monitor traffic conditions and car parks. There is a demand for additional sites to be installed particularly in sub-urban areas and the news that portable cameras using 3G type technology are becoming available will be welcome. In addition the existing network will be upgraded during 2011 and a modern control room will be provided at the new Council HQ.

More for York

The report in September detailed how savings in procurement had been exceeded by 65% already, and generated a considerable saving for the Direct Schools Grant. The Procurement Team are targeting a more ambitious, yet achievable target before the end of the financial year.

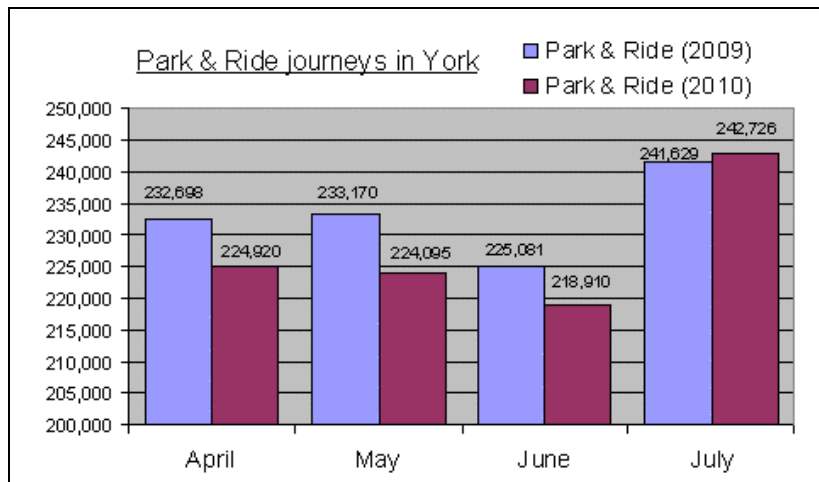
This will require a change of operation within corporate and directorate purchasing teams. More emphasis will be required on driving out savings, mainly by checking that the purchase is necessary and, if there is already a contract to supply, using it rather than going elsewhere.

Quarter 1 Finance and Performance Monitor

The council financial operations bring quarterly figures to measure against budget. The first quarter, being so early in the year allows the opportunity to implement actions to ensure the council outturns on budget. Thus at this time last year officers were predicting that without preventative action there would be a £4.5 million overspend by the end of the year. Due to considerable efforts of officers and Executive Members steps were taken to bring the council in on budget, such that the 2009/10 outturn was a slight underspend of £322K which allowed some carry forward. Therefore the projections at this stage will result in a similar exercise to last year to ensure that the council does come in again on budget..

There will be a report to Executive on 5th October covering the matter of indicators so that we can ensure that those which add value to the operation of the council, and are helpful in showing to the public how the council is performing, together with historical trends which enhance performance management.

Contingency was released for the establishment of 'York Enterprise' which replaces yorkengland.com which partner organisations had withdrawn from. There was a launch of the new organisation on 23rd September at the Mansion House.



Bus and Park & Ride Passengers: The overall number of passenger journeys in York improved slightly on the same period last year (currently 3.67m for April - June compared to 3.61m in the same period in 2009). Park & Ride data is now available up to July and shows a 2.3% decrease (910,651 compared to 932,578 in the same period last year). Although passengers for the first 3 months show slight reductions on last year, July figures show a 4.5% increase and it is hoped that this trend will continue over the next 8 months of 2010-11.

Cycle City update

We are now getting towards the end of the current 3 year Cycling City investment programme. The activities have been diverse ranging from skill training & confidence building, through to major physical works aimed at making cycling the quickest, safest and healthiest option for many short journeys in the Councils area.

Although the usual caveats still apply, but, based on the approach we used last year on the handful of existing counters (where we saw a 7% increase which by the end of the year went up to 8.6%), we are seeing about 15% of the population now cycling.

This means that, based on the overall target for the programme of a 25% increase, we are actually seeing approx 50% increase. So far in 2010 alone we have seen a 9.2% increase, and I was part of a cycle ride with Transport Under Secretary Norman Baker on 27th September.

Freedom of Information

In order to deliver a commitment made in an answer to Full Council earlier this year on the sharing of information from Freedom of Information requests the Executive received a report on how this will be operated in the future using new data systems which will ensure that there will be more information on the council website which will hopefully avoid duplication in the requests for information, and demonstrate the commitment of the council to transparent operation of the organisation.

Target Hardening

A number of schemes were approved for funding in the Target Hardening report in September I have been very keen to develop the target-hardening budget as a catalyst for a rolling programme of actions to respond to residents concerns about public safety and tackling crime. Following meetings with Superintendent Lisa Winward there has been a much greater engagement with the Neighbourhood

Policing teams, and several of the schemes have come through the joint working with councillors and the Neighbourhood Management teams. The roll out of Capable Guardian will assist with this in the future.

Executive Arrangements

Due to a legislative hang over from the previous government the Executive needed to consider the public consultation on changes to the Executive arrangements to the council. The low number of responses (albeit higher than in many other local authorities) indicate that there is little appetite for a change in the structure of local government in York. The focus has to be on creating jobs, completing the More for York programme and promoting the city. The costs of a referendum would be avoided. It is highly likely that there will be a change in legislation before the proposed actions run their course. Therefore the Executive recommendations are for the Leader and Cabinet Model with the appropriate changes to the Constitution to allow for the current arrangements to continue.

More for York

I appreciate the impact that some elements of the programme are having on staff. We have been through a process which has seen the number of Assistant Directors being reduced from 21 to 16, and I would pay tribute to those members of staff who have maintained the delivery of service throughout a difficult time, and for those members of staff who are leaving after years of service to the authority.

As a way of reducing costs in a way that did not result in the loss of posts the Executive agreed to take steps to move staff on weekly pay to a monthly arrangement.

Tourism

The Minister for Tourism, John Penrose visited the city on 4th August. He was shown the re-furbished Yorkshire Museum which had re-opened to the public on 1st August, the Minster, and National Railway Museum.

Over the summer I had a series of meetings with the Heritage Lottery Fund to support the Minster Revealed Project, and to encourage the plugging of the gap left with the withdrawal of Yorkshire Forward's contribution. I was very pleased to see the recent announcement for £9.7 million from HLF to the project which is a tremendous boost for the Minster as both spiritual heritage and major tourist attraction to the city.

I am grateful for the officers who have worked very hard to produce a summer of events across the city covering the annual Food Festival which had a strong Chocolate theme (linked to this year's big city read of 'Chocolat') and a range of other events which drew people to the city from far and wide.

Cllr Andrew Waller

MEETING	EXECUTIVE
DATE	7 SEPTEMBER 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS WALLER (CHAIR), AYRE, STEVE GALLOWAY, MOORE, MORLEY, REID AND RUNCIMAN

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

61. CAPITAL PROGRAMME - MONITOR 1

[See also under Part A minutes]

Members considered a report which presented the likely out-turn position of the Council's 2010/11 capital programme, based upon the spend profile and information up to June 2010.

An out-turn of £81.532m was predicted against the current approved budget of £81.979m; a net decrease of £447k resulting from adjustments to schemes in the programme, as outlined in paragraph 5 of the report. Capital spend to date amounted to £12.334m, or 15% of the total approved budget. Key exceptions and implications for the programme in each portfolio area were highlighted in paragraphs 9 to 40 of the report. The revised overall programme resulting from these changes was summarised in paragraph 41. It was noted that a temporary funding shortfall of £3.098m remained due to reduced asset valuations in the current economic climate; this continued to be managed by using discretionary prudential borrowing.

Approval was sought for:

- the net adjustments to the programme set out in the report and detailed in Annex A
- the use of contingency funding to cover an overspend on the Explore York Library Learning Centre and match fund the Travellers – James Street Wall scheme and
- the addition to the 2010/11 programme of a £1m loan to Yorwaste.

Having noted the comments of the Labour Group Spokespersons on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: (i) That Council approve the net adjustments of £447k in 2010/11 and £641k in 2011/12, as set out on a scheme by scheme basis in the report and contained in Annex A.

(ii) That Council approve an addition to the capital programme in 2010/11 of £1m, in the form of a loan to Yorwaste, in which the Council owns a 22.7% stake.

REASON: To enable the effective management and monitoring of the Council's capital programme.

Cllr A Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.10 pm and finished at 2.50 pm].

MEETING	EXECUTIVE
DATE	21 SEPTEMBER 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS WALLER (CHAIR), AYRE, STEVE GALLOWAY, MOORE AND REID
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS MORLEY AND RUNCIMAN

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

75. THE BARBICAN AUDITORIUM

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which provided an update on progress with the formal procurement competition designed to bring the Barbican Auditorium back into public use.

Details of the procurement process were set out in paragraphs 9 to 13 of the report. Of the four bidders shortlisted, two had subsequently withdrawn, and formal tenders had been submitted by:

- Bidder A - a property developer with a proposal for a comprehensive redevelopment of the area, including the Kent Street site
- Bidder B - SMG Europe (Holdings) Ltd., an entertainments operator with a plan to refurbish and lease the Barbican and provide a programme of entertainments and conferencing.

Following an evaluation exercise carried out in accordance with the agreed criteria, SMG (Bidder B) had been identified as the preferred bidder. Details of the funding and revenue implications of the bid were set out in exempt Annex 4 of the report. Approval was now sought to proceed to an award of the contract and to carry out works to resolve an associated issue raised by the Highways section regarding the pedestrian refuge on Kent Street.

Officers at the meeting provided an update on the potential economic impact of the preferred bidder's proposal, which early calculations estimated could benefit the local economy by between £9m and £12m.

Having noted the comments of the Labour Group Spokespersons on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the financial implications relating to the capital programme contained in exempt Annex 4 to the report.

REASON: To enable the Barbican Auditorium to be re-opened for public use.

76. CHANGING EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Members considered a report which presented the results of public consultation on changes to the Council's executive arrangements and sought a recommendation to full Council in respect of the new arrangements.

Details of the requirement to consult under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act had been reported to the Executive meeting on 6 July 2010. The consultation, carried out between 16 July and 1 September, had resulted in 52 on-line responses and one letter. 33 people had responded in support of a Leader and Cabinet Executive and 18 in support of an elected Mayor and Cabinet. Two had not formally expressed a preference. Details of the responses were provided in Annex 1 to the report.

The next stage was for Council to agree and publish its draft proposals. It must then formally resolve, at a special meeting, to change its governance arrangements. Draft proposals were presented in Annex 2, together with a timetable for implementation and transitional arrangements to cover the period between the local elections in May 2011 and the Annual Council meeting. It was noted that these arrangements must proceed, in accordance with existing legislation, despite the fact that the law was about to change.

Having noted the comments of the Labour Group Spokespersons on this item, it was

- RECOMMENDED:
- (i) That Council propose to adopt the Leader and Cabinet model.
 - (ii) That the timetable should be as set out in Annex 2 to the report.
 - (iii) That Council not instigate a referendum.
 - (iv) That Council make provision in the Constitution for removal of the Leader during his or her term of office and adopt the transitional arrangements set out in Annex 2.

REASON: In accordance with legal obligations.

A Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.10 pm].



Council

7 October 2010

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education, and the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods

The Barbican Auditorium

Summary

1. This report asks Council to approve an increase in the capital programme of up to £1.113m for the Barbican project, as recommended in Minute 75 of the Executive meeting held on 21 September 2010.

Background

2. At its meeting on 21 September 2010 the Executive:
 - Acknowledged the selection of SMG Europe (Holdings) Limited (or an appropriate nominated subsidiary) as the preferred bidder.
 - Delegated authority to the Director of Adults, Children and Education in consultation with Head of Legal Services to complete a conditional development agreement and lease ("Award of Contract").
 - Agreed that the financial implications relating to the Council's capital programme be reported to Council for approval.
3. In line with procurement rules a standstill period has been observed following identification of the preferred bidder. This period started following the Executive's decision on 21 September and expires on 5 October 2010. From 5 October the Council will be in a position to move forward to conclude the necessary legal agreements with SMG by the end of October. This is subject to the Council's approval of the implications for the Council's capital programme.
4. The key benefits of SMG's tender, as reported to the Executive, are:
 - Financial savings from early reopening.
 - Income potential.
 - A comprehensive programme of refurbishment.
 - A credible and innovative entertainment programme integrating with community, conference and council use.
 - An innovative programme of audience development backed up by use of a distinctive learning and participation programme.
 - 4 concessionary days for the Council to host city events and a proposal for reduced tariffs for community groups.

- Economic benefits from increased visitor numbers to the city.
- Early and continuing employment opportunities.

Implications for the Council's capital programme

5. The proposal for the Barbican is to invest circa £1.687m over the first five years to provide the facilities identified in the procurement exercise. The capital expenditure is to be funded from £0.687m of SMG's external resources and between £1m and £1.113m from prudential borrowing. SMG will pay the Council an annual rental over a 30 year period as tenant and the rent agreed with SMG will be set in accordance with the relevant arm's length commercial terms. The rent will be used to cover the costs of the Council's prudential borrowing. In addition, SMG will spend £438k in business set-up costs.
6. The exact amount to be funded from prudential borrowing, between a minimum of £1m and a maximum of £1.113m, will be determined in the light of a further, more detailed, condition survey which has recently been undertaken and which is currently being analysed.

Analysis

7. The bid from SMG, as preferred bidder is consistent with the Council's intentions for the Barbican and has the potential to deliver the Council's objectives. The work undertaken for the Council by external advisors, prior to the formal procurement exercise, (previously reported to the Executive) suggests that this is a good outcome for the Council and that any new approach to the market would not produce a better outcome. Furthermore, any alternative strategy that did not rely on experienced market operators would require significant time to develop and would delay the opening of the Barbican even further.
8. SMG's proposals deliver the reopening of the Barbican and would provide a significant boost to the city's economy as it comes out of recession. Council is therefore advised to approve the capital borrowing.

Corporate Priorities

9. The Council's Corporate Strategy describes the desire to "inspire residents and visitors to free their creative talents and make York the most active city in the country. We will achieve this by providing high quality sporting and cultural activities for all". Within the new strategy we commit to developing an "achievable plan for the Barbican Auditorium" to contribute to this priority.

Implications

Finance

10. The Director of Customer & Business Support Service's overview of the financial implications of the preferred bidder's proposals were attached to the Executive report of 21 September as a confidential Annex.
11. Other implications are as set out in the report.

Risk Management

12. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy the main risks that have been identified in this report are those which could lead to the inability to meet business objectives leading to financial loss, and damage to the Council's image and reputation and failure to meet stakeholders' expectations. Measured in terms of impact and likelihood, the risk score all risks has been assessed at less than 16. This means that at this point the risks need only be monitored as they do not provide a real threat to the achievement of the objectives of this report.

Recommendations

13. Council is asked to approve an increase in the capital programme of up to £1.113m for the Barbican project and to approve the use of prudential borrowing to fund this. The revenue costs incurred by the Council as a result of the prudential borrowing will be met by SMG's rental payments.

Reason: To enable the Barbican Auditorium to be reopened for public use.

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Report Approved



Date

1/10/10

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Wards Affected: All

For further information please contact the authors of the report

Background Papers:

Barbican Auditorium - Reports to the Executive 21 September, 2010.

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Full Council**7th October 2010**

Report of the Chair of Standards Committee

**Annual Report of Standards Committee
Year 09/10****Foreword by the Chair**

This year the Standards Committee has successfully met the challenge of consolidating their Local Assessment Framework role. The Committee has now had an opportunity to work through a full cycle of the framework including one investigation.

The Committee continues to promote good ethical standards within the City of York and the parishes and has been successful in attracting a number of Parish Councillors to training earlier in the year

I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all Members of the standards committee for their patience throughout a difficult year that has seen us working with three different Monitoring officers.

Summary

1. This report sets out a summary of the work and activity of the City of York Council Standards Committee during the municipal year 09/10.

Background

2. Each local authority is required by law to establish a standards committee to uphold and promote good standards of ethical conduct within the authority and any parish councils within the authority's area, focussing primarily on the activities of elected members. A major aspect of the committee's work concerns interpreting and applying the members' code of conduct when dealing with complaints from members of the public. In addition the committee contributes to ensuring high ethical standards in other ways such as the review of internal protocols and raising awareness through training.
3. By law the chair of the committee and its sub-committees must be a co-opted independent member and when the committee/sub-committee is dealing with parish council matters, it must include at least one co-opted parish council representative.

4. The Membership of the main Committee in 2009/2010 was as follows:
 - Mrs. Christine Bainton – Independent Chair
 - Councillor David Horton – Vice Chair and CYC member
 - Councillors Irene Waudby, Ben Hudson and Dave Taylor – CYC members
 - Mr. Alan Dixon, Mr. Mike Hall and Mr. D Wilson – Independent Members
 - Councillors Crawford, Mellors and Forster – Parish Council Members

Casework

5. The Assessment Sub Committee, which considers allegations made against members and decides whether to refer them for investigation or some other action, met six times. No cases were referred for investigation. In one case training was recommended for a Councillor.
6. The Review Sub Committee meets at the request of complainants to review decisions not to refer an allegation for investigation. That Sub Committee met three times and confirmed the Assessment Sub Committee's decision in each case.
7. When a case has been referred for investigation the resulting report must be referred to a "Consideration" Sub Committee. Where the report concludes that there has not been a breach of the Code the Sub Committee must decide whether it accepts that recommendation or whether it considers the matter should be referred for a hearing. Where the report finds that there has been a breach of the Code the Consideration Committee must refer the case for hearing either locally, or in the case of a serious breach, to the national Adjudication Panel. The Consideration Committee met on one occasion during 2009/10 to deal with a case which had been through the assessment process in the previous year.
8. One case was referred for hearing in 2009/10. The hearing Sub Committee found that the Code of Conduct had not been breached.

Work of the main Committee

9. The full Standards Committee met on four occasions during 2009/2010. During the year the Monitoring Officer left the Council and, although he was replaced on an interim basis pending a recruitment exercise, the gap did impact on the Committee's ability to progress some aspects of its work plan. Nevertheless the Committee did move forward on a number of matters.
10. The Committee received applications for and granted a number of dispensations.

11. The Committee received a number of reports which related to the operation of the Standards Committee, its Sub Committees and the Code of Conduct. In particular it considered changes to the Regulations affecting the Committee, took an overview of the cases which had been coming before the Sub Committees, considered the procedures in place for hearings, reviewed the gifts and hospitality register and considered and sought further information about the possibility of establishing Joint Standards Committees with other Councils.
12. One key piece of work related to the Member Officer protocol. In last year's annual report the Committee indicated that it had conducted a review of the Protocol in response to the findings of an Ethical Governance Health check undertaken by the Audit Commission in 2008. During 2009 the Standards Committee finalised a revised protocol which was adopted by the Council at its October meeting.
13. During the course of the year the Committee was pleased to take on the responsibility to act as the reporting Committee for the Member Development Steering Group. In that capacity the Committee has approved a Training and Development Policy for Members and monitored the progress of the Working Group in leading the Council's preparations for assessment for the Member Development Charter.
14. The Standards Committee has started to consider how it can raise its profile within the general community in York and particularly with Parish Councils. Training events are one way the Committee can do this and a training session in January had strong attendance from Parish Councillors. In addition Independent Members have started to attend some City Council meetings both to raise the profile of the Committee and as a learning exercise for the Independent Members themselves. Generally though this remains an area where the Committee would have liked to see more progress.
15. The Chair, Vice Chair and one Independent member attended the Standards for England annual Assembly on 13th-14th October at which developments in respect of the role of Standards Committees and the implementation of the local assessment of complaints were discussed. The conference also includes a number of workshops. The Standards Committee Chair delivered a workshop, along with Mike Wilkinson, the Chair of City of Leeds Standards committee, about the benefits of a Member induction and training programme.

The future for the Standards Committee

16. The new Government has announced that it intends to abolish the "Standards Board" regime and draft legislation is expected soon. Recent announcements have suggested that the Standards Committee may lose its statutory role as part of this process. The Committee though remains of the view that a formal system for handling complaints against Members based largely at a local level is a key element in maintaining public confidence in local government and has expressed this concern in letter to Eric Pickles the Communities and Local Government Minister.

Closing Remarks from the Chair

The continued commitment to good ethical standards by this Council and its Councillors helps to raise the confidence of the public in Good Governance. I hope that the Standards Committee will be able to offer assistance to the Council in continuing to be able to demonstrate this commitment while implementing whatever requirements the forthcoming legislation imposes.

Christine Bainton,

Independent Member and Chair of Standards Committee

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For further information please contact the Chief Officer responsible for the report

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE	28 JULY 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS B WATSON (CHAIR), BROOKS (VICE-CHAIR), FIRTH, HYMAN, GUNNELL AND CRISP (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS SCOTT AND VASSIE
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLOR MOORE (EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES) MIKE NEWBURY (AUDIT COMMISSION) LYNN HUNT (AUDIT MANAGER, DISTRICT AUDIT) MR ALAN DIXON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE)

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

22. PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE TO ARTICLE 5

Members considered a report which outlined proposed changes to Article 5 of the Council's Constitution, relating to the Lord Mayoralty.

The changes had been recommended by the Mansion House & Mayoralty Advisory Group at its meeting in April 2010, and subsequently endorsed by the Executive. The current wording of Article 5 was attached at Annex A to the report, and the proposed revised wording at Annex B.

The Committee was invited to endorse the revisions and recommend them to Full Council, in accordance with its role in respect of constitutional changes.

RESOLVED: That the following minor amendments be made to the revised version of Article 5 at Annex B to the report:

- In the second sentence of paragraph 1, insert '*City of York*' before '*elected Councillor*'
- In section (ii) of paragraph 1, replace '*first citizens*' with '*First Citizen's*'
- In paragraph 3, delete '*normally*' from the first sentence and insert it after '*The Deputy Lord Mayor is*' in the second sentence.

RECOMMENDED: That, subject to the above amendments, the current Article 5 in the Constitution be replaced by the revised Article 5 set out in Annex B to the report.

REASON: To comply with constitutional requirements and to clarify the constitutional roles of the Lord Mayor and Civic Party.

B Watson, Chair

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

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	GAMBLING & LICENSING ACTS COMMITTEE
DATE	18 JUNE 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS MERRETT (CHAIR), HORTON, LOOKER, MOORE, ORRELL, PIERCE, TAYLOR AND B WATSON
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS ALEXANDER, AYRE, HYMAN, REID, RUNCIMAN AND WISEMAN

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL.

5. REVIEW OF CUMULATIVE IMPACT ZONE.

Members considered a report which sought approval to change the boundary of the Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ). The proposed changes are as a result of consultation on a report received from North Yorkshire Police detailing changing patterns of crime and disorder in the City Centre.

The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2008-2011 includes a policy on cumulative impact for part of the city centre. The effect of the special policy is to create a rebuttable presumption that applications for new premises or material variations would normally be refused if relevant representation are received. Full details can be found at Section 6 of the Council's Licensing Policy. The boundary of the CIZ zone was approved at Council in April 2005, based on the patterns of crime and disorder at that time.

North Yorkshire Police submitted a report to the Council in January 2010 requesting that the boundaries of the zone be amended to reflect current patterns of crime and disorder in the City. This report was brought before Members in February 2010. Members determined that an extended boundary should be considered for inclusion in the CIZ subject to consultation and evidence base. A second report dated 25 March 2010 was then submitted by North Yorkshire Police detailing the extended area and this report was put forward for consultation, with the agreement of Members.

Consultation on the revised zone took place between March and May 2010 by direct mailing. A list of consultees was attached at Annex 2 of the Officers report.

Following an update from Licensing Officers and North Yorkshire Police, Members queried why Blossom Street had been excluded from the CIZ as they were aware of crime and disorder problems in the area and suggested that the street should remain included. North Yorkshire Police advised that incidents in Blossom Street had accounted for 4% of the total crime for the CIZ in 2009. Members commented that they felt there was a fair number of incidents in the area to warrant its inclusion in the CIZ.

RECOMMENDED: That Council resolves to approve the proposals submitted by North Yorkshire Police, with an amendment to retain Blossom Street within the CIZ as a result of the consultation responses as additional evidence from residents in the area.

REASON: To assist with the effective implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 in the city and contribute to the reduction of alcohol related crime and disorder in the city centre.

Councillor Merrett, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.05 pm].

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE
DATE	2 JULY 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS GILLIES (CHAIR), HORTON, LOOKER, MOORE (VICE-CHAIR) AND WAUDBY (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR FIRTH

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL**7. REGULATION OF SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES**

Members considered a report advising them of the introduction of section 21 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009. They were told that the Act introduced adoptive provisions that allowed local authorities to regulate lap dancing clubs and similar venues under the same regime as sex shops and sex cinemas.

Members felt that there was not a need for a city wide consultation in regards to the licensing of sex entertainment venues.

RECOMMENDED: That Council resolve that amendments made to Schedule 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 shall apply to the administrative area of the City of York from 1 December 2010.

REASON: To provide additional controls for the licensing of lap dancing clubs and other sexual entertainment venues in respect to existing and any potential new establishments.

Cllr Gillies, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.05 pm and finished at 3.00 pm].

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Scrutiny Report To Council October 2010

Report of the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee

1. This report is submitted by the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC), in accordance with the constitutional requirements set out in Standing Order 4.3(l) to update Council on scrutiny work during the period of activity since the last Council meeting and to set out any recommendations such as may be made to Council in relation to that work.

Update on Scrutiny Work

SMC

2. Since the last quarterly scrutiny report to Council in April, the Management Committee has met once, on 28th June 2010, where the Scrutiny Annual Report was discussed, together with the revised final report arising from the Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Review. The Annual Scrutiny Report was subsequently presented to Council at their July meeting instead of the usual quarterly report.
3. SMC have also considered the following call ins:
 - 4 May 2010
 - Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee Final Report
 - 14 June 2010
 - 20mph Speed Limit: Petitions for Sovereign Park & Dodsworth Avenue
 - Water End Cycle Scheme Evaluation
 - A Low Emission Strategy for York
 - 27 September 2010
 - Exit Provisions and Pension Discretions

Improving Scrutiny

4. In addition, as current Chair of SMC, I have been involved in a number of initiatives in an effort to improve the provision of and engagement with scrutiny across this Council. These include:
 - Chairing a regional scrutiny member event, which was held in York on 29th September 2010;
 - Establishing lead directorate officers to support scrutiny throughout the Council, at Chief Officer level;
 - A meeting with other Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs to establish what needs improving;
 - A training session for Members and 'lead officers', delivered by David McGrath, which offered some valuable insights into how we could take scrutiny forward in York

Next I am planning to attend all scrutiny meetings in the November/December cycle, together with key officers, to hear the concerns from more members doing scrutiny and talk about what we can change.

In conjunction with officers, I am supporting a change in the way we conduct scrutiny by trialing a simple 'one page' approach to assessing the potential for and scoping reviews. It is hoped to test this approach on some reviews coming up. This approach was recommended by the recent trainer.

Standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees

5. Further meetings of the standing overview & scrutiny committees have taken place since the last Council meeting.
6. **Health Scrutiny Committee** have met three times since the last Scrutiny report to Council and have given consideration to an update on dental services in York, a proposed scrutiny topic on care of new mothers and their newborn children as well as finance and monitoring reports in relation to Adult Social Services. They have also heard from the Local Involvement Network (LINKs) on several occasions and received their Annual Report as well as meeting with them informally through the LINKs Statutory stakeholder Group.
7. The Committee continues to build relationships with external health partners and has undertaken discussions with the Primary Care Trust in relation to 'Transforming Community Services'. They have also received an update from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service regarding their forthcoming priorities and challenges.
8. In addition to this they have also been consulted on the Government White Paper - 'Liberating the NHS' and have commented on the Joint Vision for Older People's Health and Social Care in York prior to it being considered by the Executive Member for Health & Adult Social Services.
9. The Childhood Obesity Task Group have now finished their work and their final report was considered at the meeting of the Committee on 22nd September 2010. The Committee approved the final report and the recommendation arising from the review and these will be submitted to the Executive in November 2010.
10. The Committee also continues to monitor the implementation of the recommendations arising from the dementia review.
11. **Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee** have met four times since last Council. The first two meetings, held in July, focused on finance, performance and budget strategy. At a meeting held in September 2010, the committee received presentations on Customer Services and ICT, and received a briefing report on measures to address external costs in Legal Services. As a result of the Customer Services presentation, the Committee agreed to carry out a review of customer feedback and complaints.
12. At a meeting in early October 2010 the Committee received a briefing on procurement and an update on 'More for York'.

13. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met three times since the last report to Council. They have also considered reports and presentations on many issues including:
 - The final report of the Councillor Call for Action in relation to Water End, which has now been received by the Executive.
 - An update on the Broadway Shops Councillor Call for Action
 - An update presentation on a proposed scrutiny topic on the acceptance of euros by York businesses – the Committee agreed that they would like to receive a further presentation from Visit York on a pilot scheme currently being undertaken within the city
 - Finance and Performance reports relevant to the remit of the Committee
 - Executive reports on the York North West site and on traffic management at York railway station
 - Proposed scrutiny topics on the adoption of new estates - the Committee decided not to progress this topic to review
 - Report on the future of Yorkshire Forward
14. In addition to this the Committee continues to work on the Newgate Market Scrutiny Review, which will hopefully be completed by the end of this calendar year. It also continues to monitor the implementation of recommendations arising from previous scrutiny reviews.
15. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since the last Council meeting. In July 2010, the Committee agreed their final report from their review of 'Casual Play Opportunities' and received a summary report on the changing policy landscape following the general election, which will impact upon the work of individual schools, the wider children's services agenda and the local authority.
16. In early October 2010 met again to receive a number of reports - a briefing on CYC's Youth Services; a report on opportunities for public art at the new CYC HQ, and an information report on Archives. The Committee were also consulted on revisions to CYC's play policy.
17. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since the last Council meeting. In June 2010 they completed their review on the council's Winter Gritting Policy, received a presentation from North Yorkshire Police and reports on the Policing Pledge, Safer Neighbourhood Teams Priorities, and Public Attitude Survey Results.
18. In September 2010, the committee received an update report on CCTV in the city, and information report on the Capable Guardian Scheme and Area Based Working Pilot. The committee also received a feasibility report on a possible scrutiny review of CYC Taxi Licensing Policy, and as a result set up a Task Group from within their committee membership to proceed with the review.
19. **School Travel Plans Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee** has met twice since their formation. In July 2010 they received an information report on the current arrangements for school travel planning in York, and agreed a remit and workplan for the review. In September 2010 the committee considered a range of travel plans for 26 York Schools and identified a cross section of those to participate in

the review. Committee members plan to visit these schools in October to gather best practice evidence and information on previous travel initiatives.

Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee

Report of the Executive Member for Corporate Services

Since my last report there have been a number of challenges, which staff have addressed magnificently, and the future looks to be challenging for all. The realignment of Directors' responsibilities and the Organisational Review, while providing a framework in which to make efficiencies, requires a change of mindset in some areas, and thought as to the most efficient way forward.

“More for York”

The “More for York” Programme is progressing well with the delivery of its gross savings target of £6.952m with £2.384m already delivered and work ongoing to deliver a further £4.569m. Directorates across the Council are achieving efficiencies, from Communities and Neighbourhoods, through Adults' Childrens' and Educational Services, to the Corporate teams.

Within Customer and Business Support Services (CBSS) the Customer Services, ICT and Procurement workstreams are projecting an overachievement of savings targets.

Some highlights of the work are:

- The new Customer Services points at St Leonard's and Library Square are offering a wider range of face-to-face services from one location.
- The Allpay payment system has had over 37,000 transactions in first three months of its launch, allowing residents to pay their bills locally, avoiding the need to travel into the city centre.
- The number of desktop printers has been reduced by fifty printers, which has led to a reduction in printing costs, paper and energy utilisation.
- The number of fax machines is being scaled back. Each unit removed will release an analogue line, saving the line rental.

Procurement

The in-year target savings of £400k to the General Fund have already been over achieved by £259k, a total of £659k savings in less than six months. In addition to this a further £927k savings have been made that will accrue to the Direct Schools Grant. The majority of these savings were made by renegotiating the utilities contracts.

Since January 2010 the team have concentrated on delivering savings and utilised a company called V4 to undertake the analysis of potential savings and delivery mechanisms. This work has concluded that the procurement function requires an expanded mandate to control expenditure and ensure that procurement activity delivers goods and services at the lowest cost and highest quality across the whole organisation. The function needs to be refocused away from simply providing compliance advice and guidance and towards the delivery of savings, establishing a Commercial Hub for the organisation. Approval to establish the Commercial Hub was granted by the Council's Executive members on 7th September 2010.

This provides the ability for the Commercial Hub (formerly Procurement) to challenge the need to procure (using Demand Management practices), determining whether there is a need for the intended purchase, and whether the specification is at the appropriate level.

The team can assess whether others within or outside CYC are making the same purchase and whether the required goods/services can be aggregated to achieve better value. The team will also be able to shape markets and work on supplier relationship management programmes to deliver innovation, service improvements, risk management of supply and cost reduction in the provision of goods, services and processes.

The new policy for the engagement of “specialists” and “interims” was launched on 14th September by the Commercial Hub. This enables the Hub to manage the demand for external “specialist” or “interim” resources to ensure that engagements are output based, i.e. delivery of the requirement in a more controlled manner which manages scope creep and is linked to a pre-defined deliverable for a fixed fee. Overall, the policy has been received positively and allows officers to focus on their core activity whilst the Commercial Hub sources against their requirement at the best possible commercial deal. A win-win solution.

Work has also been undertaken to establish The Council’s top two hundred suppliers. These account for 80% of the Council’s purchasing. Contracts are being collated in one place and assessments are underway to establish whether there are any “quick wins” to be achieved from a financial perspective whilst ensuring that output/quality is not compromised. Suppliers have been requested to attend meetings to discuss this and initial signs are positive.

Procurement is heavily involved in each of the workstreams within the “More For York” programme. Other programmes in which Procurement is involved are:

- The P2P Board
- The New HQ
- The Community Stadium
- The Low Emission Strategy Group
- The Carbon Management Programme Board

Purchase to Pay (P2P) Project

Procurement has a key role on the P2P project. The strategy is to reduce the number of invoices being received by working closely with key suppliers to consolidate, and therefore reduce, the number of invoices received. Additionally work is underway to improve the quality of invoices received to support the automated matching process by the system. Achieving both of these aims will improve both the efficiency of the process and the payment process.

Purchasing Cards are due to be launched shortly for use within the Elderly People’s Homes, to avoid the requirement for Petty Cash, though the appropriate controls will be put in place for the use of the card. It is anticipated that all nine Homes will have Purchasing Cards within the next couple of months, once they have been fully trained in how to use them in line with CYC policy.

Sustainability Agenda

CYC Procurement strategy sets out the focus on sustainability and economic development issues, which requires economic considerations to be balanced against environmental and social requirements. Achieving the lowest price is no longer the only way of achieving value from procurement. Tenders issued by the Commercial Hub require suppliers to demonstrate that they have their own Corporate Equality Statements which align to the Council's. If any Small, Medium Enterprises (SME's) don't have their own policy statements they are required to sign up to CYC's statement.

The procurement strategy is being reviewed, to improve focus on the so-called "triple baseline" of requirements - environmental, economic and social, with the lattermost embracing policy issues such as inclusiveness, diversity, equality and regeneration. Funding has been secured for a couple of workshops to be hosted by the Improvement Development Agency (IDeA) to promote collaboration with the voluntary and community sector. The first workshop is scheduled to take place in York on 7th October and will involve Brunswick Organic Nursery, Our Celebration, the former "Remploy" co-operative, York CVS and Age Concern. These workshops are aimed at establishing better ways of working together for the provision of goods and services e.g. could Brunswick provide fruit and vegetables for Elderly Person's Homes?

The annual "Meet the Buyer" event, hosted at the Guildhall on 7th September, attracted a wide variety of SME's and Voluntary Sector Organisations. Feedback from attendees at the event was that it highlighted how they may approach CYC to supply goods and services, but also that officers had taken time to explain how the Council is bound to undertake procurement both from its own Financial Regulations perspective and EU Legislation. This event was organised in a different format to previous years and operated on an appointment basis for a duration of 15 minutes each. This minimised the waiting time for the visitors and enabled the provision of a break-out/networking area where we also encouraged people to register on the Supplier Contract Management System (SCMS), which is the Council's tool for undertaking tender and quotation requests from the market.

The Head of Procurement has been the guest speaker at the Leeds and York Chamber of Commerce and explained how CYC undertakes its tenders, an overview of EU Procurement Legislation along with information about how to understand the tender documentation. A follow up session is to take place with the York Science Park before the end of the year.

We have also revised our approach to tender activity in order to enable SME's and the VSO's to bid for some of the Council's larger requirements. A recent example was for the requirement to provide Adult Social Care. This was broken down into 2 elements - Tier 1 & Tier 2. Tier 1 was aimed at larger organisations or consortiums for the "bulk" requirement of the care. Tier 2 was aimed at providing a supplementary solution to the Tier 1's if for some reason they were unable to fulfil a requirement. The Tier 2 work is on a smaller scale and was aimed at SME's and the voluntary sector. The response to this approach has been very positive with nine tender submissions received. Final evaluations are underway and it is expected that the contracts will be awarded before the end of October.

Another project is for the purchase of Food for the Elderly People's Homes. Work has been undertaken to establish a core list of requirements, which can be used across all nine homes. These are now in the process of being sent out to local providers for quotation and subsequent award. The intention is to reduce the number of deliveries, e.g. milk deliveries three times per week instead of six, and to work with local providers. This will not only have a cost benefit but will also support the carbon reduction programme. More information will be available in respect of this when the exercise has been completed towards the end of this year.

Challenges

The key challenges overall will be the establishment of different ways of working both with Council officers and suppliers. The gate-keeping role will be crucial to identifying areas of non-compliance to the new policies and procedures, which will be launched over the coming months. The number of officers authorised to purchase on the Council's behalf will need to be reduced, and the procedure for invoicing will be refreshed.

Revenues and Benefits

A significant effort has already been made, with pleasing results achieved within the Benefits service and income collection rates. Ongoing work continues in both the face-to-face receptions and York Customer Centre (YCC). There is much more work ahead to enable it to be a top performing service but it is the right time to start reporting on a regular basis on these areas. The service has already started to provide more detailed performance data in the service and directorate performance reports which shows the significant improvements being made.

As part of the "More for York" programme YCC telephone contact performance has been the focus of some detailed work, to ensure it is fit for purpose for taking on more services in 2010 and 2011. A formal Service Improvement Plan was designed, with activity to be completed by October 2010. A number of stringent controls and procedures have been introduced to manage service and performance at a variety of frequency intervals. Internal procedures have also been reviewed to improve the quality of information being provided to customers and the professionalism of contact centre staff in carrying out their duties. The results have been significant:

- In April YCC performance delivered results of 69.8% answered within 20 seconds. 10.7% of calls were abandoned. By August performance improved to 85.3% of calls answered within 20 seconds and only 3.6% of calls were abandoned.
- Collection rates as at the end of August for Council Tax stood at 47.82% & NNDR 51.47% compared to 47.69% & 48.54% for the same period last year.
- Direct Debit take up for Council Tax is 68.59% and NNDR 52.4% compared to 66.88% & 51.12% respectively for the same period last year, although there is more opportunity for DD take-up and the service will be concentrating on this in 2010/11 which will help to reduce the number of calls into the Customer Centre.
- The processing of Benefits claims continues to reduce with the year-to-date average falling from 14.23 days in July to 13 days in August, being currently on

track to reach the 12 day year-end target, despite there being a 1% increase in caseloads for August, with an overall 1.1% increase since April 2010. The Benefits telephony performance has also improved month on month with 96.3% of calls answered within 20 seconds & 0.6% abandoned for August

Other action taken to improve the quality of output and maximise resources within YCC includes:

- Training to be given to team leaders to improve sickness absence management in order to reduce unplanned absence within the team.
- Significant cross training of resources to maximise flexibility within the team.
- Extensive refresher training for all staff (though currently delivering an average of 78 training hours per month).
- Improvements in processes and response times to 'frontline' e-mail correspondence (same day logging during weekdays and streamlined processes).
- Daily monitoring of call activity against projected volumes to provide a better understanding of what affects service/call volumes and what actions are needed to minimise impact on customer service.
- Regular calibration sessions take place with team leaders to ensure consistency of scorings of recorded calls that are spot checked. All staff are able listen to these calls and two-way feedback is discussed and training requirements or other actions identified as appropriate.
- Further improvements are planned, including new customer standards, a refreshed organisation structure, further quality reviews and monitoring and real-time customer feedback facilities on our web-site and reception areas at St. Leonard's.

Financial Services

Financial management of the council has remained strong, as demonstrated by the final outturn position of a £38k underspend against the 2009/10 revenue budget, despite increasing demand on services and pressures on income. This was achieved by monitoring and management of budget variances throughout the year, and the implementation of stringent cost control methods during the last six months of the year.

The pro-active approach of the Treasury Management team has earned the Council interest of £221k in the first four months of this financial year, equivalent to a 1.24% rate of return. This is 0.82% better than the average 7-day London Inter-Bank Deposit rate (LIBID) of 0.42% and 0.74% higher than the average base rate for the period of 0.50%. In the current economic climate this is an excellent result.

This year saw the first closure of the accounts with the new Financial System. Despite some technical challenges this process was managed to schedule and The Audit and Governance Committee approved the pre-audit Statement of Accounts at the end of June 2010, within the 3 month statutory deadline required. A "Lessons

learned” review of the process has already taken place to establish improvements required for the next financial year.

On 10th June the Government announced York’s share of in-year budget reductions, totalling £1.182m in revenue area based grants (ABG), a further £0.365m in revenue grants and £1.620m in capital grants. Actions were swiftly identified to ensure that the council will remain within budget in this financial year, as identified in the first monitor report to Executive in July. Since the administration first took control, in May 2003, the Council has always ended the year within budget.

The emergency budget of 22nd June announced a commitment to further cuts in public spending with effect from April 2011. This includes a reduction of approximately 25% to government department budgets over the next four years, which may significantly reduce the amount of funding the Council receives. The latest projections indicate that savings of at least £12m will be required in 2011/12, although this could increase once the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) is known on 20th October. In this climate of uncertainty and financial pressures it is essential that Financial Services continue to provide a strong financial planning framework to manage the challenges ahead. Executive received a report in July outlining the approach to the 2011/12 budget setting process and the emerging issues for the medium term.

Financial Services provide every day support and advice to all service areas within the Council and to York schools, all of which received the statutory Financial Management Standard in Schools for the third consecutive year. In addition, the nationally renowned School Business Manager Service was extended this year to include small schools. Support is also provided for major projects such as the “More for York” programme and the Waste PFI. Other major projects involving Financial Services include the establishment of a new Purchase to Pay (P2P) Project Board to drive forward P2P improvements and the launch of purchase cards to support the procurement blueprint.

The Financial Services blueprint was approved by Executive in April. This outlines the vision for the service based on the principles of ‘world class financial management’. To deliver the blueprint objectives Financial Services are conducting a review of processes to ensure they are consistent, efficient and cost effective and will restructure the service accordingly. The revised structure is due to be implemented early in the next financial year, and will ensure that Financial Services will be in an excellent position to tackle future challenges.

Transactional Services

The transactional services teams were originally brought together as part of the Directorate restructure at the end of 2008. The service area has been involved in the “More for York” programme over the past twelve months which has seen further services added to the portfolio, which now includes:

- Council Tax Recovery
- National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) administration
- NNDR recovery
- Sundry Debtors
- Housing Benefit Overpayments

- Cashiers
- Risk Management
- Insurance
- Financial Procedures
- Business Administration
- Creditors
- Adult Social Care Finance Team

This has centralised most of the income teams at the council excluding the HRA. The final service due to move in the coming months is Council Tax administration.

The key driver to these changes was to try to improve performance and deliver efficiency to the Council. The final piece of the jigsaw will be the movement of the Council Tax administration. Whilst the amount of change in this area has been considerable and there is still much work to be undertaken there has been some very clear successes including:

- The full year savings effect of the restructure so far is £53k.
- Delivering an increased number of Liability courts to reduce outstanding debt will have delivered an additional £40k by 31 March 2011.
- Improved efficiency in the Sundry Debtor Team in 2009 delivered a 'one off' saving of £50k from the Bad Debt provision at 31 March 2010 and has a target of a further £100k for 31 March 2011.
- Implementation of Allpay (PayPoint) has reduced the number of customers coming to the Council to pay cash and cheques by 96% and has contributed to a £140k saving through closure of the Cashiers Service.
- Adult Social Care Finance Team's customer assessments for 10/11 has so far identified £800k of unclaimed benefits many of which can be offset against the current social care costs. The predicted outturn is £1.9m.
- Council Tax Recovery (Prior year) collection rate is 6.92% above target which equates to £40.2k.
- NNDR in year collection is 1.32% above target which equates to £1.063m.
- NNDR prior year collection rate is 16.16% above target which equates to £197k.
- Sundry Debtors collection rates remain above 100% (108% Aug) towards a further £100k saving on bad debt provision on 31 March 2011.
- A Good Audit report on Sundry Debtors was received for the first time following the implementation of a formal Procedure Manual.
- An increase of 10% in the number of financial assessments undertaken by the Adult Social Care Finance Team in the first quarter of this year

- Regular write-off reports are taken to Executive Member in line with Audit Commission best practice.

However, there is no room for complacency, as there are a number of challenges facing the teams in the coming months. These include the completion of the centralisation of income services, improvement in use of Procure to Pay to reduce the number of outstanding accounts more than 28 days old (this also forms part of both Procurement and Finance (FMS team) work plans) and the identification and implementation of new income streams to the council as part of the Income “More for York” Blueprint.

ITT

The department continues to provide a robust, secure and highly available infrastructure. The service has received over 14,000 requests for service year to date, and is achieving the majority of its challenging, revised and agreed service level targets for the year. The most recent ICT customer satisfaction survey identified that 92% of respondents were satisfied with the service, and this demonstrates high levels of service provision are being provided to the department’s customer base.

Alongside the delivery of the usual business activities, including but not restricted to Service Desk, Systems Support, ICT procurement, systems development and integration, the department is also delivering a number of ICT Projects and providing a major contribution to the delivery of the Council’s agreed and approved Business/Transformation projects within the numerous Blueprints.

Dark Fibre network

The work to install the ninety-four kilometres of new ducting that is being used to contain the new high speed and resilient network for the Council that began in late January of this year is nearing completion. The final stage of the project has commenced and this includes the phased switch over for the Councils Accommodation buildings, Schools and Libraries to this new network. We are on target for the network to become fully operational by the end of October this year.

Increased and resilient connectivity to the Internet

Work has been successfully completed to migrate the Council’s previous Internet connection over to 2x new separate connections out to the Internet. They are designed and installed to provide automatic failover should one of the connections fail.

Telephony

The Council’s telephony system has been significantly upgraded which included both the installation of new equipment and an upgrade to the system itself. This new system provides the council with a more robust and resilient telephone system and also provides higher levels of flexibility to help support and sustain the adoption of the different work styles that we need to embrace including hot desking and home working as the staff and its services head into the new HQ.

Gov Connect - Council ICT Security Policies

During May 2010, the Council's ICT security policies came under official scrutiny as part of the annual GCSx accreditation process. GCSx is the Government Connect Secure Extranet, a network of Governmental organisations who have to carry out data transactions at a very high level of security, such as the payment of benefits. It is an important part of the council's work that it is GCSx accredited and to that end it is audited every year against twenty-three increasingly strict criteria covering a wide range of technical policies and practices. These include, but are not restricted to, the management of email, where and how data is stored electronically and the way home worker computers are set up and connected to the Council's network. In July, the Council was selected for a special site visit from the accreditation company that meant that our compliance with all of the criteria would need to be physically demonstrated.

Both the audit and the site visit were a success and GCSx has formally accredited the Council for another year. The auditors were impressed with the foresight and application that ICT have demonstrated within the introduction of security policies and practices whilst at the same time enabling more flexible ways of working, two very conflicting activities that can be difficult to reconcile. They also looked at the ICT plans for 2010/2011 regarding issues such as encryption and confirmed the suitability of the proposed approach.

Information security is one of the most important issues facing any organisation, especially one that deals with personal and financial data of the citizens of its city. The success of the recent GCSx audit shows that the Council's approach is appropriate, safe and secure. This view was further supported by Veritau whose Information Security Report concluded that the controls implemented provide "substantial assurance with good management of risk".

Sustainability

Through the ongoing programme of replacement, consolidation and removal activities, ICT continue to increase its contribution to the Council's corporate carbon reduction target for 2013. Since this programme began, ICT has

- Replaced over nine hundred PC's with terminals/thin client devices
- Replaced over two thousand CRT monitors with flat screen devices
- Consolidated ninety-seven physical servers to six larger capacity servers that can deliver the same number of systems using virtualised services
- Removed 125 printers and replaced others with multi-functional devices

To date, the effect of these activities has been a reduction of approx 256 tonnes of CO₂ per year. A further reduction of approximately 168 tonnes of CO₂ per year will be achieved when ICT realises further reductions in printers, as part of establishing the new look printer estate utilising a blend of multi-functional devices and printers. When completed, ICT activities will have delivered a combined reduction of approximately 434 tonnes of CO₂ per year, which represents 8% of the Council's 2013 target.

Colin – replacement of the Intranet

After comprehensive development work that was based upon extensive consultation and feedback “Colin”, the completely new look and feel internal intranet, has recently been made available for general access. “Colin” is currently available as a beta (test) site and this means elected members and staff are able to use the new service while work is still on going behind the scenes to complete the phased development process that will provide additional functionality and content on an ongoing basis over the coming months as the new site continues to evolve. It is important, however, to remember that this is a test site and not everything is quite as it’s wanted just yet.

Some of the benefits that Colin will introduce include;

- It allows the promotion and exchange new ideas and best practice across the organisation.
- It fosters a more aware organisation, able to quickly find the right people and teams to do business with and enables the sharing of information, policies, standards, tools, etc
- It provides a common, but personalised, view of the business.
- It makes communicating news and events easier and more immediate.
- It contains up to date information - the Content Management System (CMS) that the Council’s content editors use contains workflow control measures, meaning that information can be signed off and retained for the appropriate period of time. An email reminder is sent to editors to make sure their content is checked on a regular basis.
- It’s very democratic - people and teams can manage their own profile pages, meaning they can ensure they are always kept up to date. Teams can also create ‘team shouts’ to share recent team news and updates, which appear on the homepage as well as their team profile.
- It helps to break down both inter- and intra- team barriers by acting as a primary communications channel that helps people to connect to each other, wherever they are in the business.

Citrix upgrade

Access to over 90% of the corporate and departmental systems is provided by the Council’s Citrix Server Farm including remote and flexible working access and its essential that the Council uses a supported solution to ensure that ICT can significantly reduce the risk of failure of one of the main components within the corporate ICT infrastructure. The current system requires upgrading, to remain effective, and this is expected to be completed in November 2010.

Encryption

ICT are currently in the process of rolling out a blend of encryption solutions to manage the risk of losing information from both fixed and removal media. The solutions will protect any information that is removed off the secure Corporate infrastructure onto a Council provided PC or laptop or when information is transferred to removal media such as memory sticks.

The work to protect the PC's and laptops considered to be within the identified high risk areas, in terms of those deemed to be at the greatest risk from theft, has commenced and all new PC's and laptops are being encrypted as part of the set up process. This process will include the encryption of all existing laptops and PC's/laptops based out of the offices including those used by Elected Members if supplied by the Council.

These encryption solutions will mean that there will have to be a review and change in the way people work, in terms of mitigating the risk of losing information, but it will not prevent elected members and staff from working or fulfilling their duties. This work is expected to be completed by February 2011.

Human Resources

Delphi replacement

A contract for the procurement of a new HR/payroll system has been completed, and a phased implementation will be undertaken, with the first payroll run by June 2011 and all other modules online by October 2011. This will reduce costs while providing a more efficient and improved service. It will improve many aspects of the service HR is able to provide to its customers including better management information and benefits such as employee self-service. It also has the option available to share the system with other organisations if desirable in the future.

Business Process Re-engineering

Business Process re-engineering started in February on the HR stream in readiness for the Delphi replacement system, i-Trent, being implemented in 2011. Each of the major areas of HR and Payroll work were reviewed and priority areas listed for closer scrutiny. Work has so far been completed on:

- Sickness Absence
- Exit/ Leavers
- Establishment Control
- Job Evaluation
- CRB checks

These systems have been re-engineered and any inefficiencies in each of the processes have been driven out, with automation of process and paperless working introduced wherever possible. Easier and more streamlined processes have been introduced to speed up working times and for the work to be completed first time by the right people. Work on Recruitment and New Starters, including the full roll out of the e-Recruitment system, is ongoing and due for completion in Autumn 2010.

Health & Safety

City of York Council's Health & Safety Management system has been mainstreamed and continues to assist with the reduction of accidents and injuries across the authority. The Health & Safety Advisers have designed and delivered seventy-one training courses with topics including manual handling, conflict management and first aid, providing training to 764 delegates over the last twelve months.

Work continues to raise the profile of H&S across the authority and deliver against the Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The Health and Safety advisers are providing specific relevant advice through the KPI Inspection. This process has seen 71 KPI inspections undertaken, which involved assessing 1,061 individual standards, of which 53% were assessed legally compliant with no improvement required. Health and Safety communications have improved significantly with the introduction of the bi-monthly 'Safety News' publication distributed to all council staff.

Corporate Workforce Plan

The first corporate Workforce Plan detailing objectives for the next two years, with regards to the development, utilisation and optimisation of our workforce, in order to best meet the needs of staff was signed off at Executive on 6th July 2010. The corresponding action plan contains over eighty ongoing actions to deliver the Effective Organisation theme in the Corporate Strategy.

Conclusion

The future has been described as "the undiscovered country", though it is an exceedingly long time since it was so unpredictable a journey. Whatever the Council faces it will be a leaner, fitter, more efficient organisation to take on the challenges. I would like to conclude by thanking all officers for their hard work and efforts to ensure this Council is capable of providing the services required by residents, efficiently, courteously, and with an unstinting commitment.

Richard S. Moore

**Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside
Bodies**

Committees/Working Groups

Planning Committee

To appoint Cllr Galvin as a member, in place of Cllr Hudson

To appoint Cllr Hudson as 2nd Conservative substitute, in place of Cllr Galvin

Outside Bodies

Charity of Jane Wright

To appoint Sue Cook, in place of Mrs Dorothy Cooper

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