

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in The Guildhall, York on Thursday, 10th October, 2013, starting at 6.30 pm

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

ACOMB WARD

Horton
Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Galvin

CLIFTON WARD

Douglas
King
Scott

DERWENT WARD

DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD

Hodgson
Reid
Semlyen

FISHERGATE WARD

D'Agorne
Taylor

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker
Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Cuthbertson
Firth
Richardson

HESLINGTON WARD

Levene

HEWORTH WARD

Funnell

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Crisp
Riches

HULL ROAD WARD

Barnes
Fitzpatrick

**HUNTINGTON & NEW
EARSWICK WARD**

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Warters

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Steward

**SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE &
CLIFTON WITHOUT WARD**

Cunningham-Cross
McIlveen
Watt

STRENSALL WARD

Doughty
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Jeffries
Burton
Williams

WHELDRAKE WARD

Barton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brooks, Boyce and Potter

31. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

The following **personal** interests were declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Taylor	6. Report of Cabinet Leader	As his employer may be affected by the Late Night Levy.
Scott	14 B (i) – Notice of Motion (Businesses in York)	Due to his wife owning a business in the Shambles. He confirmed that he would not be voting on this motion.
Fraser	14 B (i) – Notice of Motion (Businesses in York)	As acting Chair of the Micklegate Action Group which sponsored the Micklegate Quarter.
King	14 B (i) – Notice of Motion (Businesses in York)	As a Union Member relating to the sale of Royal Mail.
Simpson-Laing	14 B (i) – Notice of Motion (Businesses in York)	As Chair of the Acomb Team.
Steward	14 B (i) – Notice of Motion (Businesses in York)	His employment as a stockbroker had helped facilitate the sale of Royal Mail.

32. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last Meeting of Council held on 18 July 2013 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

33. Civic Announcements

The Lord Mayor confirmed details of the support she was giving to the 'White Ribbon' campaign, to gain accreditation for the city, with a reduction in the incidence of domestic violence. This campaign, in partnership with local businesses, would shortly be launched in the city and she welcomed Group Leaders support and the input of Members.

34. Public Participation

The Lord Mayor announced that five members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

Peter Richardson spoke of his concerns at the figures put forward for future housing requirements in the city without sufficient jobs being created for people occupying them. Pressure from house builders was suggested as the reason for the figures put forward. A request was made to Members to remove housing sites in Haxby as drainage would be unable to cope with any increase in development.

Colin Hall spoke in support of the administration and leadership of the authority. He confirmed that the authority had done well in maintaining services in the city however he asked that, prior to transfer of the Libraries and Archives service to a social enterprise, an open review be undertaken of the consultation responses, Trade Union comments, governance, finance and staff protection issues.

Gwen Swinburn spoke of her concerns and frustrations at a number of management issues particularly those highlighted in the Big York Survey referring to the oversight required of a number of financial decisions. She suggested that all these issues could be examined by scrutiny committees or by the involvement of the Local Government Association.

Dennis Martin spoke in support of Dunnington Parish Council's one hundred page response to the Local Plan in particular to the inappropriate siting of the proposed gypsy and traveller site, on land previously regarded as green belt which separated the village from the industrial estate. He expressed concerns at the lack of

prior discussion with the Parish Council and a request made to withdraw the site from the Local Plan.

Julian Sturdy, MP spoke in support of the Local Plan petition to be debated later in the meeting relating to the protection of York's green belt which enhanced the city. Although not against a Local Plan for York he pointed out that it needed to be the right plan with services provided for any new housing sites. In an effort to save the green belt, he requested that housing targets be reduced to a more sustainable level using brownfield sites for housing rather than industrial development.

35. Petitions

A. Petitions in relation to the Council's Local Plan

In view of the number of signatories to the following petitions relating to the Council's Local Plan and in accordance with the Council's current petitions scheme, these were discussed by Members. Consideration was also given to a background report from the Assistant Director for City and Environmental Services:

- Presented by Cllr Ann Reid – Council Meeting, 18th July 2013
2302 signatures

“I/We the undersigned oppose Labour's plans to use Green Belt land across York to build 22,000 houses over the next 15 years.”

- Dunnington Parish Council
1323 signatures

“We the undersigned petition the City of York Council to stop the building of a permanent 15 pitch Gypsy/Traveller site using land at Common Lane and Hassacarr Lane in Dunnington, York. It's located on Green Belt land, adjacent to Hassacarr Nature Reserve and will have a major impact on the people living in the surrounding area, homes and businesses. There are plenty of areas around York that would be suitable for these traveller locations that would not affect local residences and businesses. City of York Council needs to support our petition and keep residents happy

by providing areas and communities that people feel content to live in.”

- Presented by Cllr Ann Reid - Council Meeting, 18th July 2013
1084 signatures

“We the undersigned object to the proposals in the council’s Local Plan for the development of land lying between Wetherby Road and Knapton village. We believe that the site should continue to be included in the Green Belt as it protects the rural setting of the western approach to the city which would otherwise begin to merge with the outer ring road.”

- Gypsy & Travellers Site, Malton Road, Huntington
1036 signatures

“We the undersigned petition the council to stop the building of a permanent site for 20 pitches (20-80 caravans) on a 3 acre plus site, Huntington York. The placement of this site right at the heart of an established community, locating it immediately adjacent to homes, a nature reserve and businesses would not be appropriate in this locality, by virtue of its potential impact on Huntington & Heworth residents. We believe it is hard to conceive of a more inappropriate proposal.”

- Say No to the proposed plans for a 16 acre permanent travellers site in Knapton York
1204 signatures (closed 1st September 2013)

“We the undersigned petition the council to stop the building of a permanent site for 20 static caravans on a 16 acre site, Knapton York. The council of York want to build it for 'show men ' as a permanent home. The site is bigger than the whole village of knapton put together. Its green belt land and the owner hasn’t even been approached about the proposal. This will have a major impact on the people living in the surrounding area, homes and businesses. There are plenty of areas around York that would be suitable for these traveller locations that would not affect local residences and

businesses in the York area. York Council needs to support our decisions and keep residents happy by providing areas and communities that people feel content to live in.”

- Protect York’s Greenbelt
1232 signatures on 2nd October 2013 (closes 31st December 2013)

“We the undersigned petition the council to amend the draft Local Plan and save a number of traditionally Greenbelt-protected sites from being developed upon. The sites which have been earmarked by the Council for large scale housing development include Holme Hill and various plots of land at Clifton Moor, Osbaldwick, Copmanthorpe, Woodthorpe, Haxby and Monks Cross. We want to see the character of our villages surrounding York protected. We acknowledge the need for more housing in York, but believe the figure of 22,000 homes to be too high and the loss of over 1000 acres of Greenbelt land to be unsustainable. We believe it is absolutely vital that Brownfield sites are used first.”

Following the debate the Lord Mayor confirmed that the petitions and debate had been noted and would be taken into account as the Council progressed consideration of its Local Plan.

B. Petitions Presented Under Standing Order 7

Under Standing Order 7, petitions were presented by:

- (i) Cllr Reid, signed by 179 residents opposing the proposed cuts in winter maintenance services and calling for the retention of the existing salt bin and gritting provision in the Dringhouses and Woodthorpe ward. ¹.
- (ii) Cllr D’Agorne, signed by 312 residents requesting improvements in the frequency, availability and promotion of evening bus services in York. ².

Resolved: That the above petitions be referred to the Cabinet or appropriate Committee.

Action Required

1&2. Schedule items on Forward Plan, if required, and keep relevant Member updated on progress. SS

36. **Report of Cabinet Leader and Cabinet Recommendations**

A written report was received from the Cabinet Leader, Cllr James Alexander, on the work of the Cabinet.

A Questions

Notice had been received of ten questions on the written report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The first five questions were put and answered as follows and Cllr Alexander undertook to provide Members with written answers to the remaining questions:

(i) From Cllr Warters

“The Council Leader’s report refers to the growing problem of in-work poverty, does the Council Leader agree that employing low earners on zero hours contracts contributes to in-work poverty and if so why does the Labour run City of York Council employ significant numbers of agency staff on zero hours contracts?”

The Leader replied:

“I do agree that it does and I am pleased that City of York does not employ people on zero hour contracts. Also we have reduced the use of agency staff significantly and set up instead our own agency company that pays the living wage. It is important to distinguish between this and zero hour contracted employment, the former of which there will always be some need for in an organisation employing thousands of people.”

(ii) From Cllr Warters

“The Council Leader’s report refers to the cost of living challenge and addressing the wage gap in this city, can the Council Leader indicate how the wage gap will be narrowed within the Council when senior officers pay is boosted by market supplement payments in excess of £10,000?”

The Leader replied:

“I would like to appeal to Councillor Warters' better nature and ask him, if the council pays less than most other councils in key posts such as in the area of child protection and we have nationally recognised staff being approached for jobs in other authorities for significantly larger amounts of pay, what would he do? Would he maintain the status quo? Let good staff leave? Spend money on recruitment? Struggle to recruit at current pay levels? And then pay someone else more money whom isn't as good? As much as we all might find a market rate supplement difficult I do appeal for Members on all sides of the council to see the bigger picture.”

(iii) From Cllr Reid

“Could the Cabinet Leader provide the figures to support the claim that there has been a reduction of 40% in the number of children living in workless households?”

The Leader replied:

“Yes. When Labour won control of the council in May 2011 the number of children in workless households was 3,300. Latest figures show this has reduced to 2,000. These figures were released by the ONS in early September.”

(iv) From Cllr Ayre

“Has the council made compliance with the living wage a requirement of all services currently being outsourced?”

The Leader replied:

“The Living Wage will be included in our procurement process by April next year. We will be one of the first councils in the country to comply with this. It is a great Labour achievement that would not have happened if we had not won control of the council in May 2011.”

(v) From Cllr Aspden

“Will the council continue the work of the previous administration to seek JESSICA European funding for enhanced sustainability on the British Sugar Site?”

The Leader replied:

“Considering no progress on this site had been made throughout the entire time of the previous administration, forgive me if I have a sense of healthy scepticism that this is the correct route to pursue. With all development sites we will seek ways of financing the de-risking of sites. Our first preference will always be to partner with the private sector. Progress being made on brownfield sites speak for itself.”

(vi) From Cllr Reid

“The report confirms that 1300 new homes will be built on the British Sugar site, but the Draft Local Plan published in the spring showed only 998 homes being built on this site. Other planning applications for sites such as The Press offices in Walmgate, the Burnholme Club site, Our Lady’s School plus around 12 other locations have also produced build numbers greatly in excess of the estimates included in the draft Local Plan. Will the Cabinet Leader now accept that he has grossly underestimated the number of homes that can be provided on brownfield land in the City and will he agree that, when the responses to the Local Plan are discussed later in the year, officials will provide a more realistic estimate of both demand and supply forecasts for housing building needs in the city?”

Reply:

“The estimates in the draft Local Plan have not been over or under estimated by me, they are based on proper analysis by officers of what can be delivered within a given footprint. The important thing to remember is an estimate is exactly that and where this changes in numbers of housing units built, this shouldn’t be any great surprise.

The important distinction between the positions of the Liberal Democrats, and the Conservatives it has to be said, is that the other parties believe those living in central wards should have housing built on any spare piece of land anywhere near them and outer wards should continue to enjoy protection against any development anywhere near them.

The truth is housing should be built in both central and outer areas where it can be shown to contribute to tackling the city’s housing crisis at the same time as protecting residents’ local amenity. That requires some willingness on the part of Liberal Democrats and

Conservatives to show some concern about the desperate housing plight many of our residents find themselves in.”

(vii) From Cllr Reid

“Would the Cabinet Leader confirm that he is happy that return tickets are no longer sold on First buses – equating to a 10% increase in most passenger's costs - and does he support the increase in the number of single fare stages from 5 to 9?”

Reply:

“As Councillor Reid is aware my colleagues and I have campaigned for many years for reductions in bus fares, whether that's through the Yo-Zone card or for ordinary fare-paying passengers travelling to work. Rather than congratulating she is finding ways to criticise.

For the attention of those Members newly elected to the council, Councillor Reid was once Executive Member for Transport and during this time all we saw was successive increases in bus fares. She used to express concern about increases but did nothing about it. In January 2007 she said "We work with all the bus operators and we do provide a lot of the infrastructure to allow them to run their services. But of course all the bus companies are commercial operations that have to return a profit. The council put in a lot of infrastructure and a lot of hard work to encourage people to use the bus. We are concerned that these increases in bus fares will deter people from using the bus. Our concern is that everybody's hard work will be undone by fares that are well above the rate of inflation.

The new pricing system is not perfect but I feel on balance offers more incentives than not to get on the bus, which is what we want more people to do.”

(viii) From Cllr Healey

“Regarding the Lendal Bridge Trial, council notes that we finally have evaluation criteria for this trial. When can we expect success criteria to be published?”

Reply:

“The criteria were published some time ago and are on the council website.”

(ix) From Cllr Aspden

“Is the Chief Executive of Visit York right to be “very concerned” over the closure of Lendal Bridge?”

Reply:

“Everybody is entitled to their view.”

(x) From Cllr Healey

“Regarding the Apprenticeship Living Wage, can the Leader confirm the number of CYC apprentices in years 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/14 and the forecast number for next financial year 2014/2015?”

Reply:

“I am happy to provide the numbers he asked for but first of all I would like to point out that our apprentices used to be paid £2.45 an hour. I know apprenticeships take into account a training element to their pay but I don't think this level of pay is justified. From April they are now paid £4.98 an hour - which is the minimum wage.

The number of apprenticeships before Labour took control in 2010/11 was negligible, in 2011/12 it was boosted to 37 soon after Labour was elected to run the council and increased the budget for apprentices, in 2012/13 it was 30 and so far this financial we have recruited 17. I think it is too soon to say what the figure for 2014/15 will be but you can see this administration is serious about creating apprenticeships and providing an important contribution in the form of in-work training at the beginning of people's careers.”

B Cabinet Recommendations

Capital Programme – Monitor One 2013/14

Cllr Alexander moved, and Cllr Simpson-Laing seconded the following recommendation contained in Minute 40 of the Cabinet meeting held on 3 September 2013:

[That Council] agree to:

- The adjustments in the Capital programme of an increase of £1.473m

in 2013/14 as detailed in the report and contained in Annex A.

- Approval the following Housing & Public Protection schemes:
 - (i) The allocation of £385k of external grants for Housing Grants & Associated investments programme;
 - (ii) The use of £255k of housing balances to fund the HRA Property Buy Back scheme;
 - (iii) Note the removal of £153k of grant resulting in a reduction of the Disabled Facilities Grant programme of works.

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

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

Resolved: That the above recommendation in respect of the Capital Programme – Monitor One be approved. ¹

Action Required

1. Make necessary adjustments to the Capital Programme.

RB, DM

37. Report of the Chair of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee

Council received the report of the Chair of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee at pages 67 to 69, on the work of the Committee.

Councillor Galvin then moved and Cllr Runciman seconded acceptance of the report and it was

Resolved: That the scrutiny report be received and noted.

38. **Report of Cabinet Member**

Council received a written report from Cllr Williams, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Services.

Notice had been received of twelve questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The first five questions were put and answered as follows and Members agreed to receive written answers to their remaining questions, as set out below:

(i) From Cllr Ayre

“What business case was produced to avoid duplicating ICT provision already provided by private operators?”

Cabinet Member replied:

Answered in the meeting.

(ii) From Cllr Gillies

“In light of Cllr. Williams comments on ensuring the continued financial health of the organisation can he inform Council of the amount of loan interest paid by the Authority in each of the last two financial years and the budgeted cost for the current and next financial years?”

Cabinet Member replied:

Answered in the meeting.

(iii) From Cllr Cuthbertson

The Cabinet Member claims that the move to West Offices was completed “on budget”. A response to an FOI request earlier in the year suggested that the move cost £200,000 more than the original budget. Which is right?

Cabinet Member replied:

Answered in the meeting. An answer to a supplementary is being sent separately.

(iv) From Cllr Healey

“Regarding the Budget and specifically the first quarter monitor, please detail the amounts of monies that are ‘un-achieved’ and ‘unachievable’ in the Q1 2013 monitor?”

Cabinet Member replied:

Answered in the meeting.

(v) From Cllr Runciman

“Could the Cabinet Member reveal how much the EPH (Elderly People’s Homes) programme will cost, what the original budget was, and how the £800,000 assumed savings in the 2013-15 budgets will be met?”

Cabinet Member replied:

Answered in the meeting.

(vi) From Cllr Gillies

“Again, in light of Cllr. Williams comments on ensuring the continued financial health of the organisation can he inform Council of the cost of salary increments in the last two financial years, and the estimated cost in the current and next financial years?”

Reply:

“In 2011/12 it was £1.8m, 2012/13 £0.8m, this year there is a budget provision made for £350,000, and in 2014/15 we estimate the figure to be around £300,000.”

(vii) From Cllr Cuthbertson

“Could the Cabinet Member confirm that the “profit” referred to in the section of the report on the City of York Trading Company includes all staffing costs and could he outline how much of the “profit” derives from contracts with public sector organisations and how much from the private sector?”

Reply:

“I can confirm that staff costs have been factored in when reporting profit figures. All staff costs associated with the operation are met by the company. This includes the direct costs of staff employed by the company, and a full recharge of the staff who administer the service, plus other associated costs. The customer base during 2012/13 has been public sector, however over time I anticipate opportunities for other markets.”

(viii) From Cllr Healey

“Medium term financial management: Can the cabinet member inform council as to when this will be complete and the consultation he expects to undertake?”

Reply:

“Its not entirely clear what Cllr Healey means when he quotes “medium term financial management” as this encompasses all aspect of the Councils finance. This is of course an ongoing process and is never “complete”. I presume the question relates to the budget process, in which case I can confirm that a further report on the budget strategy and issues will come to cabinet in November. This will set out further information, including the scale of reductions this Council is facing due to government grant reductions. We will be holding a range of budget consultation events, including meetings in wards, and with key stakeholders. As all members will be aware the budget strategy, and setting of Council tax will conclude at the February Council meeting.”

(ix) From Cllr Ayre

“The Cabinet Member talks about maximising income from property sales. He specifically cites as an example the sale of the Edmund Wilson site in 2009. Is the Cabinet Member aware that this sale was conducted using a competitive bid process and that the receipt generated was over twice the professional valuation that had originally been put on the site?”

Reply:

“Yes.”

(x) From Cllr Ayre

“In the light of the new buoyancy in the York development market place, will the Cabinet Member agree that all sales of Council property and land will be subject to a competitive process which maximises the receipt that is available for the taxpayer?”

Reply:

“In an earlier question Cllr Ayre seems to be arguing against competition and in this question he is arguing for it. I would have hoped for a more consistent approach from him.

Of course the default position should be to go to the open market. However, there will always be some situations where it makes

financial and economic sense not to stick to that default position and not to have a competitive process. This should be if it is felt that one organisation has a special interest in a site and would pay a premium above the going market rate to obtain the site. An example of this would be a sitting leaseholder who wishes to buy the freehold. To have a blanket policy would simply expose the council to potentially not maximising the use of assets. The Labour Council's policy is about pragmatism over ideology, something of which I would have thought he would approve."

(xi) From Cllr Ayre

"The Cabinet Member refers to the financial work being undertaken on the Community Stadium in his report. Would he confirm what he expects the total revenue and capital contributions from York taxpayers (excluding S106 contributions) will be to this project including the associated works being undertaken at University of York sites?"

Reply:

"Detailed information on the capital and revenue costs has been to Council previously. As this process is currently subject to a detailed procurement process it would not be sensible to disclose any further information other than that already in the public domain."

(xii) From Cllr Ayre

"On budgets, could the Cabinet Member outline the existing and future borrowing commitments for the EIF (Economic Infrastructure Fund) and what would be the revenue saving if this borrowing were cancelled?"

Reply:

"The commitments on the EIF have been reported regularly to cabinet. Funding for the EIF comes from a mix of New Homes Bonus and borrowing. Some 30 per cent of the fund is financed from the New Homes Bonus. Actual borrowing is done for the Council as a whole, not by individual project. Decisions as to when to borrow, in terms of the councils whole capital programme are made by the Finance Director. Based broadly on around £18m of the EIF being committed or allocated to date, and assuming 70 per cent of this is borrowing, the annual costs of borrowing are broadly £0.5m of interest, and £0.5m of debt repayment per annum. These should be seen against the huge benefits that this programme will bring in terms of jobs and growth to our economy."

39. Recommendations of the Joint Standards Committee

As Chair of the Joint Standards Committee, Cllr Runciman moved and Cllr Horton seconded, the following recommendation contained in Minute 20 of the meeting of that Committee held on 11 September 2013:

Planning Code of Good Practice

[That Council] be recommended to approve the revised Planning Code of Good Practice.

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

Resolved: That the above recommendation of the Joint Standards Committee meeting held on 11 September 2013 be approved. ^{1&2.}

Action Required

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| 1. Update Council's Constitution. | JC |
| 2. Implement new Code. | JC |

40. Recommendations of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee

As Chair of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee, Cllr Galvin moved and Cllr Runciman seconded, the following recommendation contained in Minute 21 of the meeting of that Committee held on 9 September 2013:

Draft Annual Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report for 2012/13

[That Council] endorse the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report, covering the period June 2012 and May 2013.

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

Resolved: That the above recommendation of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting held on 9 September 2013 be approved.

41. Recommendations of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee

As Chair of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee, Cllr Alexander moved and Cllr Williams seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 25 of the meeting of that Committee held on 5 August 2013:

Changes To The Terms And Conditions Of Chief Officers

[That Council] approve a market supplement policy for Chief Officers for agreement and implementation as set out in the report.

A named vote was then requested and taken on the recommendation, with the following result:

For	Against	Abstained
Cllr Alexander	Cllr Aspden	Cllr Gunnell (Lord Mayor)
Cllr Barnes	Cllr Ayre	
Cllr Burton	Cllr Barton	
Cllr Crisp	Cllr Cuthbertson	
Cllr Cunningham-Cross	Cllr D'Agorne	
Cllr Douglas	Cllr Doughty	
Cllr Fitzpatrick	Cllr Firth	
Cllr Fraser	Cllr Galvin	
Cllr Funnell	Cllr Gillies	
Cllr Hodgson	Cllr Healey	
Cllr Horton	Cllr Hyman	
Cllr King	Cllr Jeffries	
Cllr Levene	Cllr Orrell	
Cllr Looker	Cllr Reid	
Cllr McIlveen	Cllr Richardson	
Cllr Merrett	Cllr Runciman	
Cllr Riches	Cllr Steward	
Cllr Scott	Cllr Taylor	
Cllr Semlyen	Cllr Warters	
Cllr Simpson-Laing	Cllr Watt	
Cllr Watson		
Cllr Williams		
22	20	1

The above recommendation was declared CARRIED.

Resolved: That the above recommendation in respect of a market supplement policy for Chief Officers be approved.^{1.}

Action Required

1. Proceed with implementation of policy. MB

42. Director of Education, Skills & Children's Services - Appointment Process and Remuneration

Cllr Alexander, as Cabinet Leader, presented a written report in relation to the remuneration package for the post of Director of Education, Skills and Children's Services and the establishment of an Appointments Committee authorised to conduct the final interviews.

Cllr Alexander then moved a motion to approve the appointment process and remuneration package, which was seconded by Cllr Looker.

Resolved: That the motion in respect of the appointment process and remuneration package be approved.^{1.}

Action Required

1. Establish Appointments Sub-Committee to conduct the interviews. PS, DS

43. Activities of Outside Bodies

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

- Fire Authority – 26 June 2013
- Safer York Partnerships – 5 August 2013
- Quality Bus Partnerships – 23 May 2013
- Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation – 28 June 2013

Notice had been received of one question in respect of the minutes, submitted by a Member in accordance with Standing Orders:

- i) To Cllr Merrett as one of the appointed Council representatives on the Quality Bus Partnership

From Cllr D'Agorne:

“In the minutes of the last full council it states that ‘The March minutes have not been approved as the partnership is possibly being disbanded’ yet the ‘Meeting note’ of May 23rd makes no reference to the previous minutes nor to the future of the Partnership. In fact no decisions are minuted. Can he please explain what is happening?”

Cllr Merrett replied:

“Can I remind Councillor d’Agorne of the report I agreed reviewing the current Quality Bus partnership which we inherited and which was widely recognised as not fit for purpose. As a result of that report and the consequent discussions with York bus operators there was a gap in meetings while we worked to agree at last month’s QBP meeting important changes that will make the partnership more businesslike. That work has allowed us to successfully bid for Better Bus Area status as announced earlier today. We will shortly be moving to a new tripartite structure of a reformed strategic partnership board with lead bus operator representation, an operational executive, and a partnership forum which will ensure continued involvement of all the current QBP participants.”

44. Notices of Motion

At this point in the meeting, the guillotine fell and all the following motions and amendments were deemed moved and seconded. Where a proposer and seconder were before Council, at the time of the guillotine falling, details are listed below:

- (i) Challenges for Businesses in the City (proposed by Cllr Fraser)

“Council recognises the current challenging economic climate all businesses in York and elsewhere are facing, and notes

the particular challenges for small and medium-sized businesses in the city, particularly in 'secondary' streets such as Micklegate, Gillygate, Goodramgate and Fossgate/Walmsgate.

Council further recognises the contribution that small, medium-sized and distinctive businesses, and community resources, such as community centres, churches, heritage sites etc. contribute to the attractiveness of York and to our local economy.

Council therefore resolves:

1. to better co-ordinate and support the efforts of the associations of the businesses and community organisations, such as the Micklegate Quarter, the Minster Quarter, Acomb Team and BishyRoad.com;
2. to highlight the efforts of such associations in the wider communications and publicity of the Council;
3. to develop a coherent strategy to support these efforts for consideration by Elected Members."

First amendment proposed by Councillor D'Agorne and seconded by Councillor Taylor as follows:

"In the second paragraph, final line, after the words 'and to' **insert** the words 'the resilience of'.

Insert additional final resolution as follows:

4. to ensure that the needs of small and medium sized businesses are strongly reflected in the economic strategy and local plan for York.

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

The motion, as amended, now reads as follows:

"Council recognises the current challenging economic climate all businesses in York and elsewhere are facing, and notes the particular challenges for small and medium-sized businesses in the city, particularly in 'secondary' streets such as Micklegate, Gillygate, Goodramgate and Fossgate/Walmsgate.

Council further recognises the contribution that small, medium-sized and distinctive businesses, and community resources, such as community centres, churches, heritage sites etc. contribute to the attractiveness of York and to the **resilience of** our local economy.

Council therefore resolves:

1. to better co-ordinate and support the efforts of the associations of the businesses and community organisations, such as the Micklegate Quarter, the Minster Quarter, Acomb Team and BishyRoad.com;
2. to highlight the efforts of such associations in the wider communications and publicity of the Council;
3. to develop a coherent strategy to support these efforts for consideration by Elected Members.
- 4. to ensure that the needs of small and medium sized businesses are strongly reflected in the economic strategy and local plan for York.”**

Second amendment proposed by Councillor Aspden as follows:

“Insert new second paragraph as follows:

“Council welcomes the turnaround from Cabinet which, having originally voted down a Liberal Democrat amendment on working with Acomb traders in December, is now engaging with the local traders association, Acomb Alive!”

The amendment was declared LOST.

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

Resolved: That the motion, as amended, be approved.¹

(ii) Local Government Association ‘Re-wiring Public Services’ campaign

“Council notes:

That England is now widely recognised to be the country with the most centralised system of government in Europe;
That devolution has brought decisions about tax and spending and the quality of public services closer to voters in Scotland

and Wales, while English voters have not gained comparably greater influence over decision making that affects their taxes and services;

Council believes:

That the likely scale of change in how public services are funded and provided makes it democratically unsustainable for those changes to be decided within the existing over-centralised model;

That services need to be reformed and integrated across local agencies to enable them to prevent problems rather than picking up the pieces;

That York voters should be given a meaningful say on a wider range of tax and spending decisions, through place-based budgetary arrangements, the abolition of the discredited Barnett formula and the restatement of fair financial distribution agreed among English councils, the re-creation of a municipal bond market, and the certainty of multi year funding settlements for the life of a Parliament;

That central government should enable local decision making by joining up and reducing in size Whitehall departments in order to facilitate local place-based budgets, by reducing Ministers' powers to intervene in local decisions;

That such a new more mature settlement between central and local government should be put beyond future revision by giving formal constitutional protection to local democracy;

therefore

Council Resolves To;

- 1a. Support the Local Government Association "Re-Wiring Public Services" campaign, in order to give York residents real reasons to participate in local decision making.
- 1b. Invite York Members of Parliament to join with City of York Councillors in supporting the campaign, and to ensure the Secretary of State is made aware of this Council's support for the campaign.
2. To make CYC's position clear to the Secretary of State."

Amendment proposed by Cllr Alexander as follows:

“Insert new second paragraph as follows:

We also note the good work of some Government Ministers such as Greg Clark and Nick Clegg in pushing for devolution through city deals such as the Leeds City Region. This represents the largest decentralisation programme since devolution after 1997.

Following second paragraph **insert** the sentence:
We should support organisations such as the Hannah Mitchell Foundation and Yorkshire Devolution Movement.

In the fourth line of the fourth paragraph, following the words ‘local decisions’ **insert** the words ‘such as overturning its planning decisions.’

In resolution 1b), second line, following the word ‘campaign’ **insert** (including support for devolution through the Leeds City Region combined authority).

Insert new resolution 1c) as follows:
That COYC re-affirms its decision taken in March 2012; ie Council resolves to lead a campaign for regional government for Yorkshire and the Humber.

At the end of resolution 2. **insert** the words ‘including support for devolution through the Leeds City Region combined authority.’

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

The motion, as amended, now reads as follows:

“Council notes:

That England is now widely recognised to be the country with the most centralised system of government in Europe;
That devolution has brought decisions about tax and spending and the quality of public services closer to voters in Scotland and Wales, while English voters have not gained comparably greater influence over decision making that affects their taxes and services.

We also note the good work of some Government Ministers such as Greg Clark and Nick Clegg in pushing for devolution

through city deals such as the Leeds City Region. This represents the largest decentralisation programme since devolution after 1997.

Council believes:

That the likely scale of change in how public services are funded and provided makes it democratically unsustainable for those changes to be decided within the existing over-centralised model; That services need to be reformed and integrated across local agencies to enable them to prevent problems rather than picking up the pieces.

We should support organisations such as the Hannah Mitchell Foundation and Yorkshire Devolution Movement.

That York voters should be given a meaningful say on a wider range of tax and spending decisions, through place-based budgetary arrangements, the abolition of the discredited Barnett formula and the restatement of fair financial distribution agreed among English councils, the re-creation of a municipal bond market, and the certainty of multi year funding settlements for the life of a Parliament;

That central government should enable local decision making by joining up and reducing in size Whitehall departments in order to facilitate local place-based budgets, by reducing Ministers' powers to intervene in local decisions **such as overturning its planning decisions.**

That such a new more mature settlement between central and local government should be put beyond future revision by giving formal constitutional protection to local democracy; therefore Council Resolves to;

- 1a. Support the Local Government Association "Re-Wiring Public Services" campaign, in order to give York residents real reasons to participate in local decision making.
- 1b. Invite York Members of Parliament to join with City of York Councillors in supporting the campaign **(including support for devolution through the Leeds City Region combined authority)**, and to ensure the Secretary of State is made aware of this Council's support for the campaign.

- 1c. **That COYC re-affirms its decision taken in March 2012; ie Council resolves to lead a campaign for regional government for Yorkshire and the Humber.**
2. **To make CYC's position clear to the Secretary of State including support for devolution through the Leeds City Region combined authority."**

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

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

- (iii) Reprioritising the Delivery of Front Line Services (proposed by Cllr Ayre)

"Council notes:

The results of this year's Big York Survey show that overall satisfaction with the Council is down and residents are increasingly concerned about basic service standards such as having clean and maintained streets.

The October Cabinet report, in response to the Big York Survey, says that a "realignment of priorities" to focus on basic street level services is necessary and claims that under Labour there has been a "shift in funding from day to day services" and a "cut in frontline services". The report admits "the city needs to be cleaner".

The cuts made to basic services under Labour have included cuts to litter bins, salt bins, road maintenance, recycling centres and street cleaning. The recent 'Winter Maintenance' consultation shows further cuts are planned.

The October Cabinet report states that frontline services have been sacrificed to pursue economic growth; however, as the 'Big York Survey' reveals residents do not believe the Labour Cabinet has been successful in supporting economic growth or job creation.

Council believes:

The Labour Cabinet's proposed response to the concerns of residents is inadequate and only offers more speculative spending on a £500,000 'Transformation Team', more publicity gimmicks from the Cabinet Leader, and a failure to reverse spending on vanity projects or reverse cuts to street level services.

This Labour Cabinet has lost its way and needs to get back to the basics of delivering frontline services to taxpayers in York rather than wasting millions on vanity schemes.

Council calls on Cabinet to:

- 1) Review funding (particularly revenue expenditure) currently supporting 'Economic Infrastructure Fund' schemes such as the Arts Barge, with a view to reallocating the money to frontline services and change the 'Delivery and Innovation Fund' to finance residents' priorities.
- 2) Review the decisions that have led to the deterioration in the cleanliness of the York, including the cuts to litter bins, salt bins and gritting provision, cuts to the road maintenance budget, cuts to ward committee funding, and the decision to scrap 'York Pride'.
- 3) Report to every Full Council meeting between now and May 2015 on what steps have been taken to reprioritise the delivery of frontline services to taxpayers in York.
- 4) Scrap the proposed £500,000 'Transformation Team' and spend all available money from this on frontline services both inside and outside the city-centre and in response to the priorities of residents, Parish Councils and Residents Associations. "

First amendment proposed by Cllr Barton as follows:

"In the final paragraph headed 'Council calls on Cabinet to:'"

In 1) **Insert** the words "and blanket 20mph areas" in the third line, following the words "Arts Barge."

In 2) **Insert** the words "green bins" in the third line, following the words "salt bins."

Insert new point 5) Abandon the York Consortium concept, bring back the previous Ward Funding scheme in an attempt to engage and enthuse local residents in building stronger communities, based on the needs as they see them.

The amendment was declared LOST.

In accordance with her powers under Standing Orders, the Lord Mayor ruled the following amendment, which had been submitted by Cllr Levene, out of order as it negated the motion debated in Cllr Ayre's name:

"In the first paragraph, second line, **delete** from "is down..." until the end of the paragraph and **replace** with:

"has remained steady, despite the Council having to make savings due to massive Government funding cuts, but having clean and maintained streets is becoming an area for improvement for an increasing number of residents"

In the second paragraph, second line, **delete** from "a "realignment of priorities"... " until the end of the paragraph and **replace** with:

"while investment in the long term will ensure much greater ongoing financial viability for York taxpayers, and evidence "that pursuing a growth agenda has a clear significant financial return for the Council", work does need to be done to address residents' concerns about cleanliness."

Delete third paragraph.

In the fourth paragraph, **delete** "frontline services have been sacrificed" and **replace** with "the Council has taken a prudent, long-term, evidence-based, successful decision"; **delete** "however, as" and **replace** with "and as a result", and **delete** from "do not believe..." to the end of the paragraph and **replace** with "have less concern about economic growth or job creation due to the Labour administration's success in this area"

In the fifth paragraph, **delete** from "inadequate and only offers..." until the end of the paragraph and **replace** with: "welcome and offers a financially sound decision to invest in a Transformation Programme that will pay for itself several times over in efficiency savings; a concerted focus on

community engagement, volunteer recruitment and partnership working; a budget-setting process that will more strongly focus on identified priorities; a new, clearer approach to consultation; and a commitment to work with Group Leaders to improve the Council's Scrutiny function"

In the sixth paragraph, **delete** from "lost it's way..." until the end of the paragraph and **replace** with:

"been forced to make significant savings due to unprecedented, disproportionate and counterproductive cuts from the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government, but despite this has invested soundly in the local economy, maintained services and will continue to make improvements in response to feedback from residents"

Delete resolution 1) and **replace** with "Implement a priority-based approach in setting the 2015/16 budget."

Delete resolution 2) and **replace** with:

"Take forward measures to work with the community to co-deliver frontline services through the new, dedicated Smarter York officers; investigate opportunities to decrease littering through education, technological investments and strengthened enforcement; develop our volunteer engagement strategy; undertake a review of commercial waste arrangements with city centre businesses in order to address concerns about storage and collections; proceed with the Hazel Court Transformation project in order to improve depot-based services; and continue with the "Big Clean" projects to deliver an improved street environment through partnership working."

Delete resolution 3) and **replace** with "Continue to receive updates from the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services in line with the schedule for Cabinet Member reports."

Delete resolution 4) and **replace** with "Look for opportunities where the Council may invest in order to make greater savings, such as the proposed Transformation Programme"

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

Resolved: That the motion be not approved.

(iv) Tour De France Grand Départ (proposed by Cllr Burton)

“Council notes the estimated regional economic benefits of £87m as well as local efforts made to bring the Tour de France Grand Départ to York.

Council believes the event will bring the community together and provide a huge economic boost for the city.

Council resolves to ensure that all income generated for City of York Council from the Tour de France Grand Départ is spent on frontline services for residents.”

First amendment proposed by Cllr D’Agorne as follows:

Delete final paragraph and **replace** with:

“Council resolves to maximise the income generated for City of York Council (from parking and other charges) to offset the estimated net £0.8m already committed to the project and the additional traffic management, servicing and rubbish disposal costs, and seeks to minimise the impact of these costs on frontline services for residents.”

Insert an additional final paragraph as follows:

“Council resolves to use its role in hosting the start of Day 2 of the Tour de France Grand Depart to make it the 'greenest Tour de France ever' by seeking to influence the organisers and caterers in their choice of packaging, promotional products and waste recycling arrangements.”

The first amendment on being put to the votes was declared LOST.

The second amendment was proposed by Cllr Hyman as follows:

“At the end of the second paragraph, following the words ‘boost for the city’ **insert** the following paragraph:

“Council resolves to ask officers to produce a full business case for hosting the Tour De France by November 1st. This will include a cost-benefit analysis of the project, expenditure already committed, expected future costs, details of which budget(s) committed and planned expenditure is coming

from, anticipated risks, projected income, and a robust performance measurement method”.

Council resolves to ensure that all income generated for City of York Council from the Tour de France Grand Départ is spent on frontline services for residents.”

On being put to the vote the second amendment was also declared LOST.

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

Resolved: That the motion be approved. ³.

Action Required

1. Co-ordinate and support efforts of business and community organisations, highlighting their efforts in publicity and communications and developing a support strategy for future consideration. KE, DR
2. Support LGA campaign, inviting York MP's to join and confirm with the Secretary of State CYC's support for devolution. KE
3. Ensure all income generated from the event is spent on frontline services. KE, IF

45. Questions to the Cabinet Leader and Cabinet Members Received Under Standing Order 10(C)

Forty three questions had been submitted to the Cabinet Leader and Cabinet 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 Cabinet Leader from Cllr D'Agorne:

“The Living Wage – how many other organisations in the City of York have now signed up to support this initiative by applying it to their own workforce?”

“Quite a number of large organisations have and we will continue to encourage others to sign up so that fair pay is recognised as a key part of the city’s economic identity.”

Employers that have announced a commitment to paying the Living Wage and have done so are:

- *CYC*
- *Aviva*
- *JRF & JRHT*
- *York CAB*
- *York Council for Voluntary Service*
- *York St John University*
- *Leeds & York NHS Foundation Trust*
- *Nestle UK*
- *York Teaching Hospital*
- *North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue*
- *North Yorkshire Police*
- *York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust*

This list does not include those employers who already paid the Living Wage so had no need to implement it.

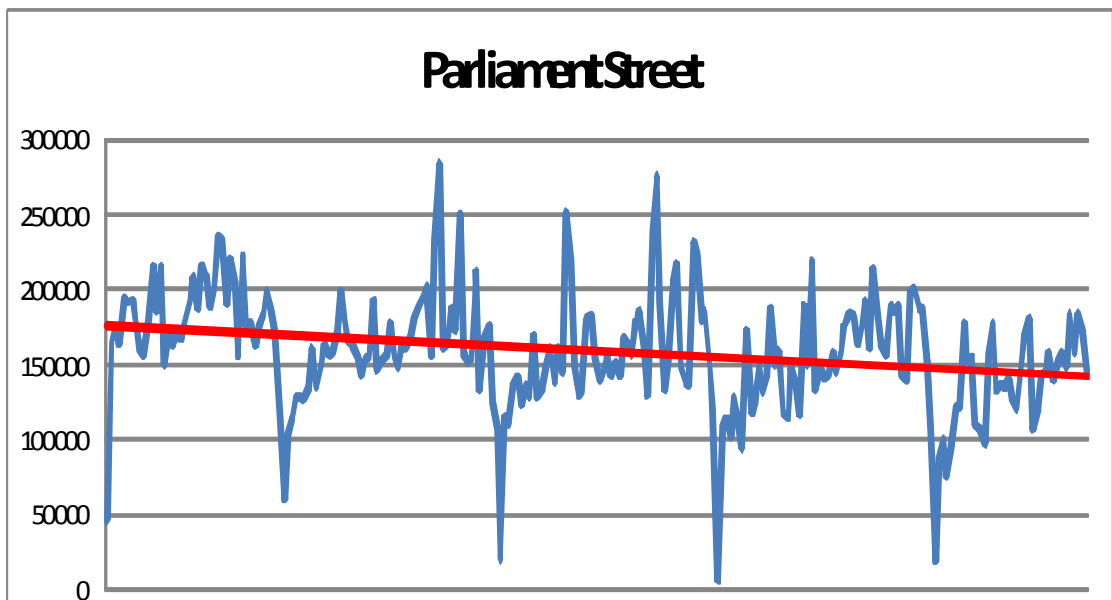
Members may have seen the good news that the community-run Golden Ball public house has just indicated it will also pay the Living Wage, so I hope many other businesses of all sizes will follow suit.”

(ii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Aspden:

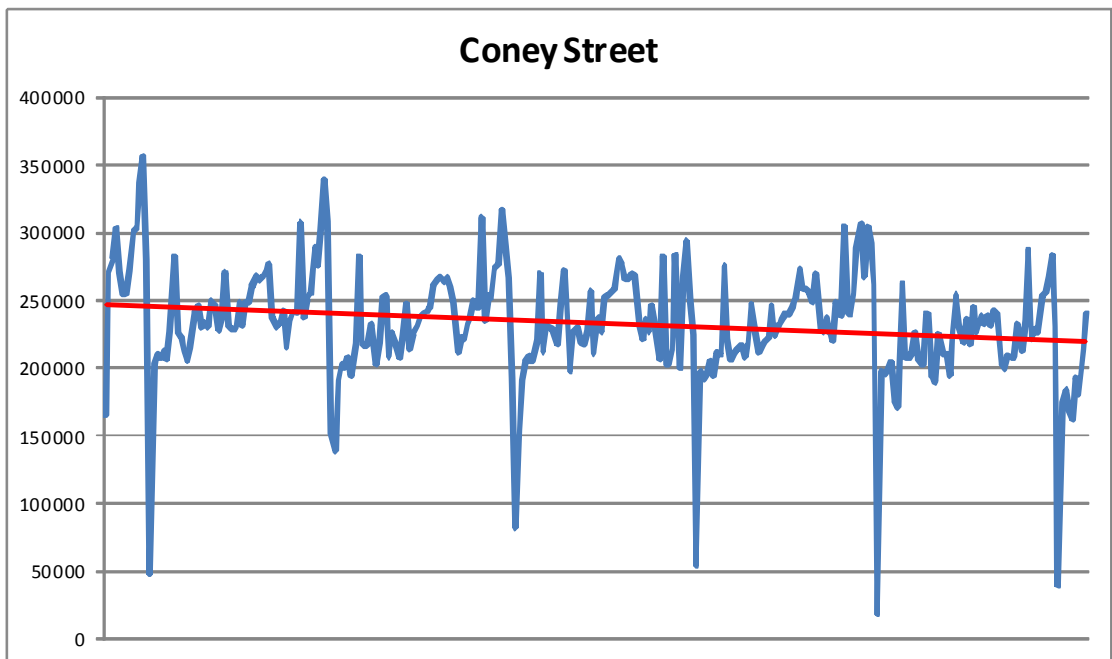
“What are the daily results for the city-centre footfall cameras (Parliament Street and Coney Street) since the beginning of August and how do they compare to the same period last year?”

I can go one better and give Coun. Aspden footfall data going back to 2009 and 2007 respectively. What this shows is the long term trend of declining footfall as online shopping competes against the high street for consumer sales. This is happening across the country as the nature of our high streets is challenged.

Parliament Street: 2009 to 2013



Coney Street: 2007 to 2013



Despite this national trend it is pleasing that York has the second lowest rate of shop vacancies in the country.

The arrival of Hiscox in the city, Primark confirming its intention to move into the city centre, the progress being made on the former White Swan hotel and on Piccadilly more generally shows that there is confidence in the city centre as a place to invest and this can only help with footfall.

This can be very easily be contrasted with eight years of Liberal Democrat inaction.

I know Coun. Aspden will argue that the Lendal Bridge trial is responsible for a decline in footfall in the city centre rather than accepting that a national trend is responsible. On the day the trial began Parliament Street saw its second best footfall figures this year. If the Liberal Democrats are against the Lendal bridge trial they should do the honest thing and tell the public this is their position. So far we just have carping at the margins about hours, duration, time of the year and signage.”

(iii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Ayre:

“Could the Cabinet Leader name the areas in the city that have 'free' Wi-Fi funded by City of York Council, how much did this cost by hotspot in the last financial year and this financial year, what is the future roll out programme plan and forecast costs, and what attempts have been made to attract sponsorship?”

“Free wi-fi hot spots are as follows:

- *Coney Street*
- *St Helen’s Square*
- *All Explore and library sites*
- *York Energise*
- *Museum Gardens*
- *Askham Bar Park and Ride Terminus Point*

The ongoing costs for our current free wifi hotspots for 2012/13 and 2013/14 are minimal as they are all, with the exception of Museum Gardens, using existing network connections - dark fibre network and internet links (ISP).

The only year on year costs are £3.1k pa for the Museum Gardens fibre as we had to extend the fibre network to provide support for the Mystery Plays and wi-fi. These costs are picked up indirectly by YMT via the financial contribution from the existing YMT client budget within Arts and Culture, and another £1.5k pa for the active network and wi-fi controller equipment that manages and controls the entire CYC public facing wi-fi estate. This additional £1.5k pa is also being covered from within existing revenue streams (as a result of continually effective management of our network provision) and no increase to base budgets was required.

In terms of future aspirations and looking for sponsorship we have 3x wireless projects within our SCC2 programme, all of which are concession based projects and will be secured using Broadband Delivery UK/Department for Culture, Media and Sport (BDUK/DCMS) and private sector funding. We have just started the formal procurement process for the City Centre Wireless project and the other two are still waiting DCMS/BDUK clearance to proceed.

The evaluation criteria as part of awarding any contracts for all 3 wireless projects will contain a blend of user experience, affordability, coverage and revenue/sponsorship.

An element of private sector sponsorship/funding could be based on the use of Council owned street side furniture as wireless access point locations if required. The actual requirements/demand of our on street assets will be confirmed through the procurement process for each project but there are examples of this form of sponsorship that has been demonstrated in other wireless projects within the UK including those in/around London and others like the Leeds-Bradford provision, but as you can imagine, the values do vary depending upon location and footfall.

We can provide further details and information on the levels of sponsorship/revenue for each project as they progress into and through the associated procurement process leading up to award and deployment.”

(iv) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Ayre:

“Has any contract been awarded to webcast council meetings and, if so, how and when was this decision was taken?”

“As you will be aware Councillor Scott and I proposed a motion to Full Council trying to deliver this form of open governance in April 2008. The proposals were voted down and there has been some resistance ever since despite the move being encouraged by the current Government.

The contract has been awarded to the Pilot Theatre to web stream the next 12 Cabinet meetings with an option to stream Full Council meetings. The decision to stream Cabinet meetings was made by

Cabinet and the decision to contract with Pilot Theatre was made by the Head of Strategy and Partnerships and Procurement.

The decision was based on the maturity of the existing web streaming market and the cost of alternative providers. Once an appropriate framework is in place to provide a range of suppliers, and once City of York Council's requirements are fully understood, a tender exercise will be undertaken."

(v) To the Deputy Leader (in relation to her Civic & Democratic Services portfolio) from Cllr Ayre:

"Could the Deputy Leader list by name, date and destination the official foreign trips council members have been on so far this financial year and the foreign trips planned or in the pipeline for members in the remainder of the financial year, whilst, also outlining what procedures and reporting requirements are in place to authorise and monitor the value and outcomes from these trips?"

"As Councillor Ayre is aware all costs are published on the Council's website. Future trips are not always known within any financial year and so he will be able to see any future travel when published on the Council's website.

With regard to travel expenditure I would point Cllr Ayre to the following paragraph taken from the IRP report to Council last October 2012:

The Panel was surprised to see how limited the budget provision was for travel outside of the City. In the Panel's view it is important that councillors, particularly those holding senior positions, are able to travel to promote the City and to identify opportunities which the City might be able to grasp. The Panel hopes that serious consideration will be given in relation to investment in this important area.

With regard to procedures and reporting requirements to authorise and monitor the value and outcomes of trips, examples of the sort of outcomes the Council would seek are:

- *Increased leisure visitors to York*
- *Inward investment within key sectors*

- *Learning about a key policy area, especially where it impacts the economy*
- *Business to business links within a key sector*
- *Research links within departments at universities*

and provides the Council with some clear parameters to help make good decisions informed by consistent rationale.

Foreign business trips are authorised by the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Leader or Deputy Leader.”

(vi) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr D’Agorne:

“Weed removal from streets is noticeably lacking this year – can you explain to residents of Danum Rd area why they have to wait until November for a Community Payback team to remove vegetation from paths and gutters?”

“As has already been explained to Cllr D’Agorne, weed removal this year has been the same as it has been every other year, in that it has never been done as a matter of course. Due to this and in line with our Smarter York agenda, this work will be undertaken by Community Payback, whose supervisors are required to undertake training to work on the roadside. This training has been programmed for the 4th October and the work should be completed by November dependent on workload and weather. We have been working to improve how the Council works with Community Payback in order to ensure York taxpayers get the most of this service.”

(vii) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Richardson:

“Given that some residents have paid in advance the new Green Bin Tax, will Council reimburse this payment or carry the payments forward as a credit for year 14/15, given April 2014 is the start date for the Tax?”

“April 2014 is not the start date for the charge for additional green bins. This is an annual charge and not based on a particular season, with residents subscribing for a period of 12 months from the date they subscribe.

(viii) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Richardson:

“Residents are reporting damage or loss of refuse bins into refuse vehicles. Will council replace the bins free of charge and implement a mandatory form of reporting loss or damage of bins by a unique numbered incident report, providing date and time and will council also mark all replaced bins with a unique I.D number?”

“Collection crews will advise the customer when their bin has been damaged as a result of our collections. This will be done by way of a postcard delivered to the resident’s home by the crew, or if this is not possible, the crew will report it to their supervisor who will inform the YCC. I can confirm that the Council will replace bins damaged by Council staff free of charge.”

(ix) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr D’Agorne:

“What work is being undertaken to look at ‘plan B’ alternative to the costly incinerator project that is no longer viable due to the withdrawal of the £65m of PFI loan?”

“It is not true to say that Allerton Park, the energy from waste project that will save York taxpayers millions of pounds, is no longer viable. The Council is committed to continuing the proposal by working with Amey Cespa, and once they have finalised the funding for the facility, a report will be taken to both the City Council and the County Council next year asking Members for a final decision on whether to proceed.”

(x) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Reid:

“Why were new refuse collection arrangements introduced before the Council was in a position to guarantee that bins would be emptied as per the published schedule?”

“Given the mess the Liberal Democrats made of the introduction of fortnightly collections, they should know that with the introduction

of new rounds, there is always a period of settling in – both for residents, who are getting used to new collection days or times, and the crews who are learning new rounds. The rounds are thoroughly assessed by crews and supervisors prior to them being introduced using their collective knowledge and experience, but the service does not get any chance to dress rehearse the rounds. In reality, less than half a percent of homes across York have had any issues with their collections during the implementation.”

(xi) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Firth:

“Since the new waste collection arrangements began on 9th September how many bins were not collected on the scheduled collection day?”

“During the implementation period we were collecting 99.88% of bins, so a ‘miss rate’ of 0.12%. In comparison, the miss rate during the move to fortnightly collections under the previous Liberal Democrat administration was around 10%.”

(xii) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Firth:

“After the recent changes in the waste collections, what has been the additional costs incurred to date in returning to clear bins that were not emptied in accordance with the published timetable?”

“We have kept overtime to a minimum during the implementation period and only put additional resources out on Saturday mornings, at a total cost of £868. This compares to around £25,000 during the move to fortnightly collections under the previous Liberal Democrat administration.”

(xiii) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Reid:

“Will the Cabinet Member apologise publicly to the thousands of York residents who have been inconvenienced by the bungled launch of the revised waste collection service?”

“Given the excellent collection rate during the implementation of what are always difficult changes, I think it more appropriate that the Liberal Democrats apologise for intentionally scaremongering and attempting to mislead the public for political gain.”

(xiv) To the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Service from Cllr D’Agorne:

“Is the Cabinet Member satisfied with the response rate to calls to the Smarter York helpline compared to two years ago?”

“Whilst I am not satisfied with the response rates in recent weeks to calls to the Smarter York helpline, the circumstances which have led to this position, includes other significant pressures on the wider service around welfare benefits changes introduced by the Government. We receive around 800 - 1000 calls per month more than two years ago. However, average performance on calls answered and time taken to answer calls is not greatly different.

An overall review of all customer related system technology is under way and this area will be a focus for our emerging Transformation Programme which will focus on efficiency and effectiveness across all of our customer service channels.

Smarteryork and Operators info 2011

01904 551550 - Switchboard	15-Aug	22-Aug	29-Aug	05-Sep	12-Sep
Calls Offered	2980	2932	1859	1921	1752
Calls Answered	2478	2666	1532	1449	1411
% Answered	83.2	90.9	82.4	75.4	80.5
Ave time to answer	36 secs	20 secs	30 secs	37 secs	26 secs

01904 551551 - SmarterYork	15-Aug	22-Aug	29-Aug	05-Sep	12-Sep
Calls Offered	925	824	748	833	985
Calls Answered	679	604	599	594	719
% Answered	73.4	73.3	80.1	71.3	73
Average time to answer	1 min 25	1 min 25	1 min 30	1 min 30	1 min 1
	1 min 12	1 min 25 sec	1 min 19 sec		

Smarteryork and Operators info 2013

01904 551550 Switchboard	19-Aug	26-Aug	02-Sep	09-Sep	16-Sep
Calls Offered	2167	2256	2419	2591	1569
Calls Answered	2084	1865	2293	2262	1382
% Answered	96	83	95	87	88
Ave time to answer	15 secs	53 secs	20 secs	38 secs	35 secs

01904 551551 - SmarterYork	19-Aug	26-Aug	02-Sep	09-Sep	16-Sep
Calls Offered	1044	1658	1753	3192	1175
Calls Answered	919	1142	1405	1866	887
% Answered	88	68	80	58	74

(xv) To the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Service from Cllr D'Agorne:

“Is the council working with the fire service to consider any implications for fire safety and emergency planning following the boat fire at Kings Staith last Saturday?”

“The councils Emergency Planning team work closely with all statutory agencies including the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that plans are in place to reduce emergencies and where they do occur ensure that plans are in place to safely managed the incident and reduce the risk of harm to both individuals and businesses. This pro-active planning includes plans for city centre evacuation and dealing with incidents on the river.

In relation to the boat fire at Kings Staith, the councils emergency planning officer was in attendance at the scene on the night and the multi-agency plans for dealing with emergencies on the river was put in place where necessary. The follow up in relation to the removal of the boat is being dealt with through the boat owners insurance company.”

(xvi) To the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Service from Cllr Ayre:

“In early September the average waiting time for residents calling the Council 551551 number was over 2.5 minutes. Over 40% gave up waiting and abandoned their call. Would the Cabinet member agree that this is an unacceptable way to treat taxpayers who are trying to report issues to the Council?”

“Below are the demand statistics for mid August to mid September - the significant increase in calls week beginning 9th September were due in the main to the waste collection changes affecting a large proportion of residents in York. Clearly original estimates of resources needed to meet demand had to be re-evaluated once the real impacts were known, and then adjusted.

The changes were implemented from the following dates:

* *w/c 26th August publications re changes were issued and bins stickered*

* *w/c 9th September go live*

Whilst the Smarter York line performance was as quoted in the question in w/b 9th September, this was at the point when lines were two or three times as busy as previous weeks, and improvements were made by the following week.

In the mean time, performance was maintained at around 90% of all calls answered, and below 40 seconds, for the council main Switchboard which also experienced an increase in calls in the same week.”

SmarterYork and Operators info 2011

01904 551550 - Switchboard			15-Aug	22-Aug	29-Aug	05-Sep	12-Sep
Sep Average							
Calls Offered	2980	2932	1859	1921	1752	2288.8	
Calls Answered	2478	2666	1532	1449	1411	1907.2	
% Answered	83.2	90.9	82.4	75.4	80.5	82.48	
Ave time to answer		36 secs	20 secs	30 secs	37 secs	26 secs	30 secs

01904 551551 - SmarterYork			15-Aug	22-Aug	29-Aug	05-Sep	12-Sep
Sep Average							
Calls Offered	925	824	748	833	985	863	
Calls Answered	679	604	599	594	719	639	
% Answered	73.4	73.3	80.1	71.3	73	74.22	
Average time to answer		1 min 25		1 min 30		1 min 1	
	1 min 12	1 min 25 sec	1 min 19 sec				

SmarterYork and Operators info 2013 Average

01904 551550 Switchboard			19-Aug	26-Aug	02-Sep	09-Sep	16-Sep
Sep							
Calls Offered	2167	2256	2419	2591	1569	2200.4	
Calls Answered	2084	1865	2293	2262	1382	1977.2	
% Answered	96	83	95	87	88	89.8	
Ave time to answer		15 secs	53 secs	20 secs	38 secs	35 secs	32.2 secs

01904 551551 - SmarterYork			19-Aug	26-Aug	02-Sep	09-Sep	16-Sep
Sep							
Calls Offered	1044	1658	1753	3192	1175	1764.4	
Calls Answered	919	1142	1405	1866	887	1243.8	
% Answered	88	68	80	58	74	73.6	
Average time to answer		54 secs	1min 59	1min 20	2min 44	1min 25	1min 40 sec

(xvii) To the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Service from Cllr Cuthbertson:

“What steps is the Cabinet Member taking to ensure that the problems in the Council’s customer contact centre are

addressed and would he say what his current targets are for *Time to Answer* and *Abandoned calls* on both switchboard lines?”

“We aim to answer 80% of our calls within 20 seconds with 95% of calls being answered. In September we received 4500 more calls than expected due to additional demand.”

The current response rates are a cause for concern and are due in no small part to the extra 800-1,000 calls per month that we are receiving due to the changes in welfare benefits introduced by the Government that Cllr Cuthbertson supports.”

(xviii) To the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Service from Cllr Jeffries:

“Oliver House has remained empty for 18 months (other than for access by a ‘security by occupation’ company), but the Cabinet Member has not taken steps to maximise the income available from the property, for example by letting the parking spaces associated with it. When does the Cabinet Member anticipate the building being brought back into residential use or sold to generate a significant capital receipt?”

“The Cabinet decided to offer Oliver House to York CVS subject to business case agreement in May 2012, to set up a hub for various social care services. It was anticipated that there would be a delay before the scheme was up and running and this was reflected in the Cabinet report at the time.

We have worked jointly with CVS to clarify the requirement for a social care hub, the conversion costs and the business case. The initial proposals from York CVS were not affordable so further analysis and options are currently being evaluated and the decision will come back to Cabinet in either Nov or Dec when all new options have been satisfactorily assessed.

The arrangements for the empty building have kept it secure and we are working hard to secure the future use of the building as quickly as possible.”

(xix) To the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Service from Cllr Orrell:

“In answer to a Freedom of Information Request in March the Council said that the number of directly employed casual staff on zero hour contracts was 2962. Can the Cabinet Member confirm the latest figure and break the number down by role?”

“This information was provided under FOI using a definition provided by ACAS. ACAS also state ‘the term ‘zero hours’ is not defined in legislation, but is generally understood to be a employment contract between an employer and a worker, which means the employer is not obliged to provide the worker with any minimum working hours, and the worker is not obliged to accept any of the hours offered’.

I can now confirm that we do not have any CYC contracts of this nature but we use casual assignments which have a start and end date at a set rate of pay. This is not a permanent contractual arrangement. Most of these are now commissioned through City of York Trading Ltd (WWY@CYT), with remaining casual staff working direct for council services. All casual work will be transferred to WWY@CYT by the end of March 2014 as per the Cabinet report dated [4th June](#) to be found at:

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=7638&Ver=4>

The current breakdown of known casuals are:

	<i>In a WwY@CYT Assignment</i>	<i>Non WwY@CYT casual (may not be working)</i>
<i>Adults/Children</i>	121	53
<i>Communities & Neighbourhoods</i>	95	388
<i>Customer & Business Support Services</i>	18	78
<i>City & Environmental Services</i>	28	46
<i>Office of the Chief Executive</i>	3	85
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>265</i>	<i>650</i>

The numbers are much lower than stated at the time of the FOI as all old staff records have now been deleted and only live positions from the 1st of September are shown.

Numbers of casual assignments can change day by day and week by week across a wide variety of roles, however examples of casual roles used by each directorate are:

- Adults/ Children's Services – Children's social care, Adult social care (including existing staff which take on additional casual work), drivers, clerical staff, Teacher / tutors, youth workers, early years workers.*
- Communities & Neighbourhoods – Housing services, Library staff (inc. drivers and cafe workers), training centre staff, leisure services staff, public protection, tutors.*
- Customer & Business Support Services – Cleaning, support services admin staff, electoral services.*
- City & Environmental Services Highways, waste, road safety, traffic census, street cleaning.*
- Office of the Chief Executive - leaflet distribution.”*

(xx) To the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Service from Cllr Ayre:

“Could the Cabinet Member list by name, date and destination the official foreign trips Council staff have been on so far this financial year and the foreign trips planned or in the pipeline for them in the remainder of the financial year, whilst, also outlining what procedures and reporting requirements are in place to authorise and monitor the value and outcomes from these trips?”

“To be confirmed.”

(xxi) To the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Service from Cllr Ayre:

“What, if any, legal advice did the Council take before blocking payday loan websites at libraries, Explore centres, West Offices and through the city-centre Wi-Fi provision?”

“Payday loans are a modern day scourge and are a sign of how hard people are finding the cost of living under the Government supported by Cllr Ayre. I welcome the campaign being led by the Archbishop of Canterbury on this matter.

It was therefore right that the Council does what it can to help prevent residents using Council resources to become beholden to spiralling debt.

Councils across the Country have been taking similar action without legal challenge and the informal advice of the Head of Legal Services is that he has no concerns about the move from a legal standpoint.”

(xxii) To the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Service from Cllr Jeffries:

“How many members of staff and per department are trained in ‘Easy Read’?”

“It is not possible to give this analysis until we establish electronic training records next year, but whilst there is no specific structured course currently available through the Workforce Development Unit for Easy Read, this is not to say that this is not being delivered within individual services across the council. Structured Equalities and Diversity training is a key programme of activity to be available to all staff and will support mandatory Customer Service training, and we will ensure accessible information including Easy Read is covered in one or both of these structured programmes.”

(xxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr D’Agorne:

“Leaving aside the significant contribution arising from the move to the new offices, what is the current performance of the council in

achieving its carbon reduction targets and what are the targets for the next two years?”

“The Council’s 2008 – 2013 Carbon Management programme (CMP) exceeded its 25% reduction target (delivering projects which achieved a 28% reduction by 31 March 2013). This was highlighted at that time. In addition a 2 stage Green Audit of Council property was undertaken last year and this has highlighted further projects for implementation in coming years. Some of these will be funded through the council’s Salix funding – others by working with colleagues in property and the school planning team.

http://www.york.gov.uk/press/article/1113/council_surpasses_emissions_target

A project log to confirm this is available on request.

The City’s climate change framework and action plan sets a challenging target for 2020 – 40% reduction - the council will surely want to be able to evidence its own contribution to this.

There is no specific target in place for the next 2 years at this point, pending the production of a new plan, but I am expecting to at least deliver additional projects that were identified through the CMP 2008-13, and the green audit, but which have not so far been implemented – that list would see a further 1200t CO2 saving.”

(xxiv) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr D’Agorne:

“Will the revised local plan include an assessment of the traffic impact and implications of proposed housing developments at Winthorpe and Land North of Clifton Moor?”

“A consultancy services provider has been commissioned to undertake an assessment of ‘Local Plan Transport Investment Requirements’. This will assess the local and strategic transport investment to demonstrate that the transport infrastructure required to realise the amount and distribution of development being planned for the City of York Local Plan (principally through the Strategic Sites) is viable. More specifically, trips arising from development at each (strategic) site, including Whinthorpe and land north of Clifton Moor will need to be assessed individually and

cumulatively. The cumulative assessment is likely to encompass grouping of sites to assess the impacts in specific areas of York, as well as a city-wide cumulative assessment.

In addition to the assessment of infrastructure requirements, the commissioned consultancy services provider will be supporting the council to undertake 'pre-application' analysis of the strategic sites. This support will include liaison with the developers/landowners who wish to see their sites come forward for development during the Plan period (2015-2030) and beyond.

The Local Plan contains policies that seek to reduce reliance on private motorised transport and encourage greater modal share of the more sustainable (and active) forms of transport, to minimise the adverse transport impacts of development. Therefore, in undertaking both of the work elements outlined above, the consultancy services provider should have due regard to the modal splits achieved in the eco-town examples in Europe (and other places) for achieving low modal share by private motorised transport in York.”

(xxv) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr D'Agorne:

“What existing and additional air quality monitoring is taking place on the inner ring road to assess the impact of the Lendal Bridge closure and Coppergate enforcement measures?”

“The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) operates an extensive network (over 350) of nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes in the city centre (including Lendal Bridge and the inner ring road) and along key radial routes into the city. EPU also operates a number of continuous air quality monitoring stations at roadside locations including Fishergate, Lawrence Street, Nunnery Lane, Gillygate, Holgate Road, Heworth Green, Plantation Drive and Fulford Road. For more detailed information about air quality monitoring including the latest Progress Reports submitted to DEFRA, please see CYC’s dedicated air quality website at www.jorair.co.uk

Whilst baseline (pre-trial) air quality data exists for many of the areas around the inner ring road, the air quality impact of the bridge closure will be difficult to quantify precisely, as air quality is heavily influenced by prevailing weather conditions and shows considerable seasonal variation. Consequently, it will only be

possible to draw limited conclusions from any road-side measured results and that for the purposes of the trial evaluation an assessment will be made using computer modelling of changes in emissions resultant from changes in vehicle flow on the highway network.”

(xxvi) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr D’Agorne:

“Given the government funding for flood defence work in Fulford will the work now include raising Fordlands Rd to remove flooding here and will Persimmon still be required to make the same financial contribution specified in the original S106 agreement?”

“The A19 South Pinch Point funding recently announced by the Department for Transport is principally for transport improvements in the area. The funding will be used to introduce a new left turn free flow lane from the A19 into the Designer Outlet Park & Ride; inbound bus priority lanes on the A19 between A64 and Germany Beck, bus priorities at the Naburn Lane junction and enhancements to the junction at the proposed Germany Beck development. The junction scheme will remove the current flood disruption risk from travellers on the A19. Measures to address flooding on Fordlands Road will be investigated and included in the scheme if possible. There will be no change to the obligations on the developer to deliver the access junction element of the scheme or to the level of their s106 contributions to other measures in the area.”

(xxvii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Richardson:

“Can the Cabinet Member remove the many confusing signs across the City referring to the closure of Lendal Bridge and can he implement a city wide program of information providing consistent and clear information for all motorists entering the City?”

“The temporary signing around the city for the restriction introduced on Lendal Bridge are aimed at informing those regular users that a change has been implemented that they may have to take note of and amend their previous regular travel pattern. For

those drivers less familiar with place names in the city the nationally recognised traffic restriction signs at the point the restriction begins informs the driver of where and when they can and can't go.

The signing strategy for the city directs inbound drivers to car parks, plus some other significant locations outside the inner ring road such as the National Railway Museum, Hospital, etc. Outbound traffic is directed to the nearest convenient main radial and out to the outer ring road (A64 & A1237).

Providing advance information of restrictions on movement is rarely a practical option in the longer term and normally restricted to an initial period of a few months for major schemes."

(xxviii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Reid:

"How many drivers have attracted ANPR penalty notices on each day since the Lendal Bridge trial closure began, how many notices have been waived or cancelled, and how much revenue has the Council collected from these fines in total?"

"We are currently producing weekly figures for the number for PCNs;

Lendal

02-08 Sept - 1675 PCNs issued (4 days enforcement, commenced Wed)

09-15 Sept - 2015 PCNs issued (6 days enforcement, because of the Skyride event)

16-22 Sept - 1766 PCNs issued (5 days enforcement, cameras updating)

TOTAL 5456

Accurate actual income into CYC is not available at this stage due to the short time the system has been operational. Based on £23 / PCN (the £30 'early payment' value of the PCN minus the processing and operating costs), this would equate to a potential income of £125,500. Actual income will be lower than this as a small proportion of PCNs issued will be cancelled for various reasons and so not all PCNs issued will be paid.

It is not possible at this stage to give an accurate figure for cancelled or waived PCNs as this figure would need to include PCNs cancelled at the processing centre and we do not have this information at present.”

(xxix) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Hyman:

“Who took the decision to waive the potential fine income for the first 10 days of the Lendal Bridge trial and under what delegated authority?”

“The Director of City and Environmental Services made the decision based on his authority to discharge any function of Cabinet in relation to: Highways Network Strategy & Management and Transport Planning.”

(xxx) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Runciman:

“How many drivers have attracted ANPR penalty notices on each day since the new restrictions on access to Coppergate began, how many notices have been waived or cancelled, and how much revenue has the Council collected from these fines in total?”

“We are currently producing weekly figures for the number for PCNs;

Coppergate

15-18 August -1085 PCNs issued (4 days enforcement, commenced Wednesday)

19-25 August - 1741 PCNs issued

26-01 Sept - 880 PCNs issued

02-08 Sept - 850 PCNs issued

09-15 Sept - 841 PCNs issued (6 days enforcement, because of the Skyride event)

16-22 Sept -324 PCNs issued (5 days enforcement, cameras updating and gas works commenced)

TOTAL 5721

Accurate actual income into CYC is not available at this stage due to the short time the system has been operational. Based on £23 /

PCN (the £30 'early payment' value of the PCN minus the processing and operating costs). This would equate to a potential income of £131,500. Actual income will be lower than this as a small proportion of PCNs issued will be cancelled for various reasons and so not all PCNs issued will be paid.

It is not possible at this stage to give an accurate figure for cancelled or waived PCNs as this figure would need to include PCNs cancelled at the processing centre and we do not have this information at present."

(xxxii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Runciman:

"Could the Cabinet Member provide a breakdown of the ANPR penalty notices issued since the Lendal Bridge closure and Coppergate restrictions by residents living inside York and residents living outside York?"

"Coppergate; 1852 individual postcodes recorded. 1280 'YO' postcodes & 572 non-'YO' postcodes. This equates to a 70%-30% split

Lendal Bridge: 6340 individual postcodes recorded. 1436 'YO' postcodes & 4904 non-'YO' postcodes. This equated to a 22.5%-77.5% split."

(xxxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Reid:

"Why is the feed from the traffic cameras to the 'i-travel' York website map still not working despite the assurances given at the July Council meeting?"

"The work to get images from the City's CCTV system onto the YorkLIVE website and mobile applications is ongoing. Unfortunately, our move from an analogue CCTV system to a digital one has required more recoding of the website's processing system than originally anticipated. This additional work is now almost complete and the CCTV images should be available on the website during October / November. For the mobile applications the updates required will be included in the next update releases of the apps, expected in later this year."

(xxxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Reid:

“How many faults have been reported on traffic signals in York so far this year, what is the total time that signals have been out of service, and how do these figures compare to the equivalent period last year?”

“1st April 2012 to 1st April 2013; 573 faults equating to 790 hours of lost service. 1st April 2013 to 1st October 2013; 299 faults equating to 804 hours of lost service

The hours of lost service reflects the severity of the faults (more serious faults involve more hours service loss), whereas the fault numbers just reflect the number of call outs. Between April and October 2013, we had a number of serious cabling faults, caused by damaged and flooded ducts. These faults, at sites including George Hudson St and Walmgate Bar have pushed the ‘out of service’ figures up.”

(xxxiv) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Reid:

“The Department for Transport website reports that 80% of bus services ran on time in 2011/12. What is the equivalent figure for 2012/13?”

“In the City of York area, 81% of the city’s non-frequent services (5 or fewer services per hour) ran on time (between 59 seconds early and 5 mins 59 secs late) in 2011/12. In 2012/13, the equivalent figure was 82%.

Further details and explanation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proportion-of-bus-services-running-on-time>”

(xxxv) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Reid:

“What action has the Cabinet member taken since the last Council meeting to ensure that passengers have access to

both current and historical information on bus reliability in York?”

“Details of the reliability of bus services in York has been available to the public for many years through statistics published by the Department for Transport. This ensures that bus punctuality is not only compared on an historic basis, but also against many similar towns and cities across the country.

I would also add in relation to an earlier contribution by Councillor Aspden, that the bus usage figures published in the last performance report are substantially in error, reflecting a period in which ticket machine problems meant substantial under-reporting of actual bus usage.”

(xxxvi) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services from Cllr Reid:

“During 2011/12 the Council reported that an additional 321 homes (net) had been built in the city of which 151 were "affordable". What are the equivalent figures for 2012/13 and why hasn't the Annual Monitoring Report for last year been published on the Council's website as yet?”

“The collection of annual monitoring reports by the Department for Communities for Local Government (CLG) ceased on January 2012 when the Localism Act (Section 113) came into force. This removes the requirement for annual monitoring reports (AMR) to be made to the Secretary of State (SoS) under Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This section amends this requirement so that Local Planning Authorities must publish this information direct to the public at least yearly in the interests of transparency.

Furthermore, in 2011 MP Bob Neil wrote to all Local Planning Authorities outlining the removal of LDF Monitoring; A Good Practice Guide (ODPM 2008), Annual Monitoring Report FAQ & Emerging Practise 2004 -2005 (ODPM 2006) and Regional Spatial and Local Development Framework; Core Output Indicators – Update 2/2008(CLG/2008). The letter also indicated that following removal of these documents ‘It is therefore a matter for each Council to decide what to include in their monitoring reports while

ensuring they are prepared in accordance with relevant UK and EU legislation'1.

In addition to this in March 2012 the Department of Communities and Local Government published The Single Data List; a catalogue of all the datasets that local government must submit to central government in a given year. The aim of the list is to facilitate transparency, bring clarity for local authorities and the public as to what data central government collects and what should be available to them. Both the 5 year housing land supply (ref 023 of CLG Single Data List) and the Annual Monitoring Report (ref 024) have now been removed from the Single Data List and local planning authorities are no longer required to submit these to the Secretary of State.

An interim AMR was published in March 2013 with a commitment to publish a full AMR following the publication of the Preferred Options Local Plan. The interim AMR presents the quantitative land use monitoring analysis for 2011/12 including net completions to October 2012. This fulfils the requirement set out above for Local Authorities to publish information direct to the public.

In addition to this some individual members of the public have requested more up to date information on completions (to April 2013) following the year end on 1st April and also details on planning consents for 11/12 and 12/13 all of which was supplied as requested and would be made available to any other member of the public if they requested this. We will imminently be updating the current Annual Monitoring Report webpage to include information to the year end (1st April 2013) on net housing completions and consents.

As the Local Plan moves forward through the preparation stages the indicators in the AMR will evolve to meet the delivery and monitoring requirements of NPPF. We now have monitoring figures available for net housing completions and planning consents to 1st April 2013 and will be publishing these as an update to the Interim AMR along with details of the forward supply of housing for the Local Plan period as published in the Local Plan Preferred Options which we consulted on between June and July 2013. This gives details of potential sites allocated for housing in the Local Plan Preferred Options along with a broad indication of their phasing over the plan period to 2030.

The total net housing completions for the monitoring period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 was 482 which includes 124 student cluster flats. The inclusion of non-institutional student accommodation within housing completion figures is in line with CLG guidance on housing monitoring.

The total gross number of affordable homes completed over the same period was 122. Please note that affordable housing is measured in gross terms i.e. the number of dwellings completed, through new build, acquisitions and conversions. This does not take account of losses through sales of affordable housing and demolitions. Please note that homes are counted as completed when either: they are transferred from a developer to a registered provider (Housing Association) or when the Registered Provider informs the HCA of their completion and makes a claim for final grant payment on this basis. These completion figures for affordable housing are gross and no adjustment has been made for existing affordable homes that have been sold under the Right to Buy or otherwise disposed of. This is in accordance with Government requirements on reporting affordable housing completions.”

(xxxvii) To the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services from Cllr Jeffries:

“The web site for the ‘shop4support’ organisation was launched earlier in the summer. What consultation with prospective users was undertaken before the launch, how much is the project costing taxpayers and how is the Cabinet member ensuring that the information contained on the website is accurate, accessible, comprehensive and up to date?”

“The ability to use the website was made available to the City of York Council through the Regional ADASS in late 2011 at no initial cost to the Council. The set up programme has recently ended and so the site has recently gone live – a formal launch is currently being planned.

Whilst there is no cost to CYC for the website at present, there are ongoing conversations regionally about whether Local Authorities will be willing to underwrite the site for up to £15k a year – CYC has not yet made a decision.

York information is kept up to date through the Family Information Service which has a strong record of providing an excellent children's information site.

The 'design' and format of the site is a national one designed by a group associated with 'In Control', an organisation which has strong links to people who use services and their carers and was set up as they sought, and felt the need for, an e-market place for services."

(xxxviii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Ayre:

"How many amateur sports clubs were using Mille Crux prior to St. John's takeover and how many are using it now?"

"Prior to the purchase I understand that the site was home to a cricket team, a football team, a rugby team, a bowls club and a flyball club.

(For those members who are not conversant with the noble sport of flyball, it essentially consists of people and dogs running around over obstacles together and is the fastest growing dog sport in the UK.)

On site now there is the cricket team, the bowls club, and the flyball club, whilst the rugby club has now grown and now has 2 teams. The football club moved to New Earswick because they wanted access to a bar and club house.

The site has obtained planning permissions for two new 3G astroturf pitches, two floodlit netball courts, and three floodlit tennis courts, all of which will have community access. The university has further plans for development of the site which will offer facilities for community junior football and enhanced access for recreational walking and running. It is set to become a major community sports asset.

My thanks to Cllr Ayre for reminding council of how far this Labour Administration has moved towards developing strong partnership arrangements resulting in a far more strategic approach to

community sports provision in the city. One which I'm confident will see an increase in that provision."

(xxxix) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Ayre:

"Could the Cabinet Member provide details of the agreement to provide revenue support to York athletics club, specifically when this decision was taken, who took this decision, how much the annual amount is and from what budget the money is being taken?"

"The provision of a grant for the delivery of community athletics has been agreed as part of Heads of Terms between the University of York, the City of York Athletic Club and the Council for the provision of the new athletics facilities.

The grant will be provided as a single one off payment of £31k; this will come from the Council's budget for the delivery of the athletics facilities. It will not be an ongoing commitment or constitute revenue support. The grant requires the Athletic Club to establish an expanded sports development programme on the new site during the transition period. The Council gives capital and revenue grants to support community voluntary sports clubs where they are contributing to their community and improving health and physical activity participation rates.

The decision to fund the Athletics project was taken at Cabinet on 6th March 2012, as was the authority for officers to develop the proposals.

The Community Stadium Project Board makes decisions regarding the delivery of the project. An update report for the Community Stadium is to be taken to Cabinet on 4th December 2013, this will cover all detailed authorities required to secure the delivery of the proposal covered by the Heads of Terms."

(xl) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Ayre:

"Could the Cabinet Member list the other stadiums the 'Community Stadium Project Board' have visited by destination, date and cost?"

“Cllr Ayre asks what “other stadiums” the Community Stadium Project Board has visited and I’m not at all sure why he asks about “other stadiums” as it implies the Community Stadium Project Board as a body have visited at least one “other” stadium, however, the Community Stadium Project Board as a body has not visited any stadiums since inception.

However, Members of the Board, individually, over the years have probably visited many stadiums in either a personal or business capacity. Indeed as Cllr Ayre is most painfully aware and is unlikely to ever forget or live down, I visited Wembley Stadium as a guest of York City FC on one occasion when he was also there.

If the question relates to individual Members of the board acting on official council business, this information can be provided if helpful to Cllr Ayre.”

(xli) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Ayre:

“What is the predicted contribution from York City Football Club towards the new Community Stadium?”

“York City Football Club’s financial contribution to the new stadium will be made up by a capital contribution and an ongoing rental payment. This will be governed by a detailed Match day Agreement which will set out the terms of occupation. The details of the Match Day Agreement are currently under discussion between the parties and their legal advisors.

Details regarding the level of capital contribution to be made by the Football Club were covered in the Cabinet report of 6th March 2012. The Football Club remain committed to paying up to £2 m subject to the risks and issues covered in that report, mainly related to the disposal of Bootham Crescent.”

(xlii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Ayre:

“What is the predicted cost of the new athletics facility at Heslington West?”

“It would not be in the commercial interest of the Council or its partners, involved in the delivery of this project, to disclose details regarding estimated costs.

The University of York will soon be preparing competitive tenders for the works, publishing prior to the award of contract would undermine the ability to secure the most commercially advantageous price.

I can however confirm that the cost to the Council remains within the £2m budget agreed for the delivery of the athletics facilities on 6th March 2012.”

(xlili) To the Cabinet Member for Crime and Stronger Communities from Cllr Jeffries:

“Could the Cabinet Member outline the details of the £10,000 ward committee funding paid to Tang Hall Community Centre and the completed scheme?”

“Contributions were made as follows:

*£3,000 from Hull Road Ward Committee
£6,615 from Heworth Ward Committee
£2,000 from Housing*

The aim of the project was to support residents in an area of relative deprivation by creating a space that would be attractive to partner organisations to deliver relevant services to be identified locally especially in relation to debt and poverty.

The committee decided to make alterations to the building which would create 2 confidential office spaces and an accessible independent entrance for the users of the first floor of the building, releasing the lounge area which could then be used as a self-contained space rather than also acting as an access corridor. Working with colleagues in CYC the committee has drawn up the necessary plan and these are currently in the system as a planning application.

Cllr Julie Gunnell

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

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