

City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 11th December, 2014, starting at 6.35 pm

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

Acomb Ward	Bishopthorpe Ward
Horton Simpson-Laing	Galvin
Clifton Ward	Derwent Ward
Douglas King Scott	Brooks
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	Fishergate Ward
Reid Semlyen	D'Agorne Taylor
Fulford Ward	Guildhall Ward
Aspden	Looker Watson
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	Heslington Ward
Cuthbertson Firth Richardson	Levene
Heworth Ward	Heworth Without Ward
Boyce Funnell Potter	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

Strensall Ward

Doughty
Wiseman

Westfield Ward

Burton
Williams

Wheldrake Ward

Barton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hodgson and Watt

52. 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 **prejudicial** interests were declared and the Members took no part in the discussion and voting thereon:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Ayre	12 (i) Motion – NHS	As he worked on a project in partnership with the a unit of the NHS
Barnes	12 (i) Motion – NHS	As an employee of an organisation with connections to the NHS
Doughty	12 (v) Motion – Northern Rail & Transpennine Express Guards	As he was employed by one of the franchises mentioned in the motion
Horton	12 (v) Motion – Northern Rail & Transpennine Express Guards	As a former member of the Transport Workers Union in support of the motion
Waller	12 (i) Motion – NHS	As an employee of NHS England

The following **personal** interests were declared:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description of Interest</u>
Horton	12 (iv) Motion – Article 4 Direction	As a member of CAMRA
Merrett	12 (v) Motion – Northern Rail & Transpennine Express Guards	As a member of the Transport Salaried Staff Association

53. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 9 October 2014 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 23 October 2014 be approved and signed by the Chair as correct records.

54. Civic Announcements

The Lord Mayor announced that this was the first Council meeting following the recent death of Richard Cregan, a former Labour Councillor for the Beckfield Ward.

Members stood for a moments silence in memory of the former Councillor.

The Lord Mayor also announced receipt of a gift of an embroidered Chinese picture from the Monks of Shaolin, of Henan Province in China.

55. Public Participation

Fiona Evans spoke in support of the Yearsley Pool petition to be presented by Cllr Runciman as the next item on the agenda. She referred to the support of 6,500 residents who had signed the petition and pointed out the health benefits of swimming for people of all ages. She also highlighted the unique nature of the pool for long distance swimmers and asked Members to support this valuable community asset and provide funding to keep the pool open for at least 5 years.

56. Petitions

Under Standing Order 7, petitions were presented by the following Members for reference to the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee, in accordance with the Council's new petition arrangements:

- i) Cllr Runciman on behalf of local residents requesting the Council to recognise the significance of Yearsley Pool and to provide revenue funding to keep it open for the next 5 years.¹
- ii) Cllr Doughty on behalf of residents of Strensall, calling on the Council to put measures in place to protect children

crossing the junction of Sheriff Hutton Road and The Village before a further accident occurred.²

- iii) Cllr Gunnell on behalf of residents, requesting the Council to undertake a consultation for resident's parking in Nunthorpe Grove.³
- iv) Cllr Douglas on behalf of 2,841 electors, requesting the Council to continue to fund the Burton Stone Community Centre for at least a further 5 years.⁴

Action Required

1-4. Refer to CSMC and appropriate Officer.

JP

57. Report of the Cabinet Member

Council received a written report from Councillor Simpson-Laing, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes and Safer Communities.

Councillor Simpson-Laing presented her report and requested Councillors and Officers to sign up to the White Ribbon campaign against domestic abuse.

Notice had been received of six questions on the written report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The first four questions were put and answered as follows and Cllr Simpson-Laing undertook to provide Members with written answers to the remaining questions.

(i) From Cllr Barton

“Whilst congratulating Ian Floyd and his team for achieving a ‘5 year high’ in terms of a 98.04% rent collection rate, can the Cabinet Member outline what robust measures are to be introduced to collect the £¾ million plus which are nevertheless still outstanding, monies which rightly belong to the taxpayers of York, or is this huge amount likely to be written off?”

The Cabinet Member replied:

I am sure that the Director of Customer and Business Support Services, Ian Floyd, will take the praise for the rent collection rate of the Housing revenue account but this actually falls in the remit of the director of Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods Sally Burns.

I believe from the question that there is confusion between Council Tax and the Housing Revenue Account as the latter cannot be redirected into other areas of council spending. The HRA is the account where Council tenants' rent is collected.

As I am sure Cllr Barton is aware rent money is not general taxation and cannot be spent on Council services, only on housing related services such as the continued Tenants Choice rolling programme, repairs, the building of new Council Homes, estate improvements, adaptations to council properties, and improving management and customer engagement

As my report notes Council Rent Arrears are at their lowest for 12 years. The Council has a number of sanctions for those in debt including not being able to move to another property – however this has been relaxed where tenants have been affected by the Bedroom Tax (Spare Room Subsidy) as otherwise their arrears would potential continue to increase.

The council's approach to rent recovery is very much based on a preventative approach. This begins at the start of someone's tenancy where the importance of timely rent payment is stressed. New tenants are expected to pay rent in advance and or come with their Housing Benefit application ready with evidence to support a claim.

The Housing Department ensures that it's accessible at local advice sessions, along with money and employment advisers to help with maximising benefits and opportunities for employment, when residents are signing their tenancies or have a change in circumstances. I have created a pot for assisting people to downsize to reduce cost and I have ensured the use of the new build program to encourage this too. The Council also funds the Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) debt project which helps tenants manage their debt.

Ultimately action will be taken against tenants who are not paying their rent but this is only done once all other avenues have been explored with tenants. Court action and eviction is very much seen as the last resort.

Similar to all councils the City of York Council does 'write' off arrears each year. Arrear 'write offs' take place for the following reasons:

- *Death of the tenant and no estate*
- *Tenants being untraceable (the Council does rewrite debt back if past tenants re-appear)*
- *Tenants moving in to care*

The council initially uses internal systems and services to trace those with rent arrears if they have vacated a property. If the debtor cannot be located by internal means the council uses Tracing Agents and Debt collection agencies.

National recovery rates for rent arrears are around 5% of the total outstanding debt due to the reasons outlined

For information the written version of this answer includes rent arrears 'write offs' for the last ten years, peaking at nearly £0.5m the year before Labour took office and falling ever since.

Finally, and with regard to the LGA update given at Audit and Governance recently I have asked Democracy Services to ensure that as part of the new member training programme, for May 2015, that a session is provided on the different council financial funds and their uses, those being the Capital and Revenue Fund and the Housing Revenue Account

Arrears 'write offs':

<i>2005/06</i>	<i>£403,192.50</i>
<i>2006/07</i>	<i>£278,246.74</i>
<i>2007/08</i>	<i>£146,016.00</i>
<i>2008/09</i>	<i>£213,437.90</i>
<i>2009/10</i>	<i>£164,928.12</i>
<i>2010/11</i>	<i>£490,986.67</i>
<i>2011/12</i>	<i>£298,016.37</i>
<i>2012/13</i>	<i>£221,722.58</i>
<i>2013/14</i>	<i>£215,714.00</i>
<i>2014/15 to end Sept</i>	<i>£99,351.10</i>

(ii) From Cllr Doughty

“The Cabinet Member reports having taken on responsibility for the Mansion House in 2012 and points to a success story in visitor numbers (6,000 in 2013/2014 from under 1,000 in 2006). Can the Cabinet Member please supply the figures for each of the years between please?”

The Cabinet Member replied:

In my report to Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee Monday, 23rd June 2014 I reported, in detail, the work going on at the Mansion House.

I included in that report a graph to show the increase in visitor numbers related to increased opening hours and the types of events being held. The published written version of this answer will include that graph.

I would also refer Cllr Doughty to the previous years report to Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee, 13th May, 2013 in which I reported on ideas discussed with Mansion House staff about increasing visitor numbers and the use of the house.

Both of these reports are available on the Council website and are part of the agenda document packs for those meetings.

As Cllr Doughty has not had the opportunity to read the reports along with the actual number of visitors and the categories, I will explain.

Attendance is recorded by categories or entrance charge. The bands are Adults, Concessions, Residents, Children, York Pass and York Archaeological Trust Pass.

The actual total numbers for each year are:

2006	812
2007	700
2008	868
2009	1097
2010	2588
2011	3828
2012	4148
2013	6301
2014	7998

Note the 2014 figure is for the period Jan to Nov end

The General House tour is offered on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at the following times: 11:00am, 12:30pm and 2pm. Specialist tours for pre-booked parties or around events during the year, such as Halloween also take place.

total 7998 6301 4148 3828 2588 1097 868 700 812

The current charges for the Open House tours are;

Adults £5

Concessions £4

Children under 16 and York residents are free

Private booked tours vary in price depending on requirements of the groups from

House tours £6.00 per person

Silver Tour-£12.00 per person – Refreshments are included

Connoisseur Tour -£15:00 per person – Refreshments are included

(iii) From Cllr Ayre

“How many different viewers accessed the video webcasts during the last month for which figures are available?”

The Cabinet Member replied:

I was very pleased that this Labour Council took the lead in webcasting and audio recording after the Labour group first suggested webcasting in 2007 - at that time it was rejected by the then Liberal Democrat controlled Council as not a sensible use of council expenditure.

I am pleased then that major decision meetings, from next week, will be either webcasted or audio recorded so that a true and accurate record of what has been said can be viewed and listened to and not distorted by inaccurate or malicious reporting. I would also add that for once I will go on record praising the Minister, Eric Pickles MP, for the suggestion that web and audio recording take place so that accurate records of meetings exist.

Whilst the figures in my report are correct they were only ‘in time’ when the report was written as the figures were based on public meetings which took place between 1st June 2014 and 12th November 2014.

Up to date statistics for on-demand viewing figures for all our webcasts viewed from the 1st June to the 9th December are:

- *Total views: 1,325*
- *Estimated minutes watched: 9,515 (159 hrs)*

Viewing figures since webcasting was introduced in June 2013 are:

- *Total views: 15,553*
- *Estimated minutes watched: 96,716 (1,612 hrs)*

In addition, we have had 1,564 listens to audio recordings of City of York Council committee meetings in a similar period.

As I mentioned in my report the Council is unable to identify unique views, only the overall number of views and as mentioned, these figures do not include live viewing figures. This is because the current system would not be able to give accurate figures of combined viewings as viewers can view webcasts via our website or directly on YouTube.

Speaking to the Officer responsible for the technology, that the Council uses, we do not have the ability to record actual individuals as this would require the Council tracking IP addresses and our current set up does not allow us to do this.

Undertaking some research I believe one possible way to obtain such numbers would be to set up a subscriber service and I have asked officers to investigate the technology and cost around this.

If Cllr Ayre is worried about how many actual people are watching and how we can increase viewers it is also possible that the Council could look to increased viewership by either using Title or Thumbnail Optimisation so that our 'recordings' appear higher up prioritisation lists when being searched. Again this would involve time and cost.

Now you would hope that each video was watched on average by 86 different viewers – It would be unusual for someone to watch more than once - but no doubt be some will just as many people watch YouTube postings numerous times.

(iv) From Cllr Doughty

"In her report, the Cabinet Member speaks of her request for a full review of the Council Constitution in 2012 and work still being underway. I agree it is good that reviews are undertaken as this holds the key to citizens as well as Councillors being able to hold

the Council to account. Can the Cabinet Member demonstrate how she has included citizens in this process (or intends to)?”

The Cabinet Member replied:

I would like to thank Cllr Doughty for asking a similar question to that of Cllr Ayre’s at July’s Council meeting, but I am happy to answer again if he missed the answer then.

The Audit and Governance Committee is the Committee that has the responsibility of bringing forward proposals for amendments to the Constitution. I am sure that the previous questioner on this matter, who is now the Chair of Audit and Governance will ensure that, and if legally appropriate, the public will be able to make any contributions on the recommendations brought to Council through the public participation system.

As I answered in July the Audit and Governance Committee held a public engagement event in May at which members of the public were invited to express views as to how the Council operates and a Scrutiny review has taken place which has amongst its objectives:

- *Examine national best practice by other Local Authorities currently achieving excellence level in their democratic traditions.*
- *Identify optimum methods for raising awareness of the democratic process amongst York’s Communities of Identity.*

I am sure that the Chair of the Task Group would have received contributions from interested members of the public.

Of course it should be remembered that the Constitution has to reflect complex statutory provisions including those in the Local Government Acts of 1972 and 2000, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Localism Act 2011 as well as a myriad of other Acts, Statutory Instruments statutory guidance and case law.

The Council has an expert legal team that undertake this work and they also work in partnership with colleagues in the region to ensure that our Constitution is legally compliant. Members of the public can send in suggestions to the legal team and these will be considered, but due to legal ‘process’ changes that can be made are limited.”

(v) From Cllr Doughty

“The Cabinet Member informs us £115,000 of borrowed money has been committed from the Delivery and Innovation Fund towards an Anti-Social Behaviour ‘hub’. Can she confirm the cumulative cost of borrowing for this over the next 20 years please?”

Reply:

As I am sure Cllr Doughty and Council are aware the ASB Hub was launched in May 2014 and is a partnership between North Yorkshire Police and the Council.

The ‘Hub’ has the backing of the Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner Julia Mulligan who has said:

“Anti-social behaviour is one of the greatest concerns of residents across North Yorkshire and can have a massive impact on people’s quality of life. That’s why, on coming to office, I championed the establishment of an Anti-Social Behaviour hub, so that the police, local authority officers and other partner agencies could work collaboratively and make a real and tangible difference to communities.”

The establishment of an anti-social behaviour hub in York is an innovative approach to transforming the way both organisations work together to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and nuisance, including environmental issues such as flytipping and graffiti and involves the pooling of resources – especially important when both the Council and police force budget are being cut year on year. This brings together the powers and expertise to make communities across the city feel and be safer

The aim of the hub is to ensure a more efficient, timely and appropriate response to anti-social behaviour within York’s communities by deploying members of a single team of frontline enforcement officers from both organisations.

The £115k that Cllr Doughty mentions has been supported by two awards from the Home Office funded Police Innovation Fund, now totalling £382k, over both 14/15 & 15/16. The local allocation has been made by the Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner. The fund’s aim is to incentivise collaboration, support improved digital working and innovative approaches to improve policing and to drive efficiency.

In respect of the Delivery and Innovation Fund, the Delivery and Innovation Fund is a revenue budget, so the cost of borrowing is nil! The funding was approved as part of the annual budget, as a growth item, and was established to assist in taking forward innovative projects and to support the delivery of major priority areas of work.

(vi) From Cllr Doughty

“The Cabinet Member (in page 78 of the Agenda) points to work being carried out by Council staff to stop residents becoming homeless, noble aims of course. Of the numbers she quotes, can she please advise how many solely relate to the three areas she claims in her opening statement of the section by breakdown with more detail?”

Reply:

Whilst the statement and the section on homelessness are not actually linked my statement is a matter of fact. This is based on fact and evidence from leading homeless experts.

Shelter report that:

Sadly, many people view homelessness as the result of personal failings, and consider that if the economy is going well, there is no excuse for not getting on.

But this belief is belied by the facts, which show that homelessness is caused by a complex interplay between a person's individual circumstances and adverse 'structural' factors outside their direct control.

Shelter states that causes of homelessness include one or more of the following:

- *debts - especially mortgage or rent arrears, poor physical and mental health and relationship breakdown*
- *unemployment*
- *poverty*
- *a lack of affordable housing*
- *housing policies*
- *the structure and administration of housing benefit*

This list is backed up by the Salvation Army who report that Homelessness can be caused by:

- *poverty*
- *unemployment*
- *lack of affordable housing*
- *poor physical or mental health*
- *drug and alcohol abuse*
- *gambling*
- *family and relationship breakdown*
- *domestic violence*
- *physical and/or sexual abuse.*

All these factors can cause a person to become homeless. They can also be one of the reasons why a person remains homeless.

In the written version of this answer I have attached two tables. One shows actual reasons for homelessness and the other measures that were taken to prevent possible homelessness – that is the causes that may have caused it to happen.

With regard to York actual homelessness includes relationship breakdown -, which can often be a result of debt, unemployment and health issues - actual debt and end of tenancies in the Private Rented Sector. Of those who were prevented from becoming homeless the top two categories were ‘debt’ and Housing Benefit problems.

The reason for such low homeless figures in York is the excellent intervention service we provide and the work we undertake with our partners across the city.

I include in the written version of this answer tables which show overall interventions. This shows how homelessness has been avoided by 683 people in 13/14 and 332 this year, up to September.

Main reason - Households accepted as being homeless and in priority need (P1E data)											
Area	Date	Relatives/friends no longer able/willing to provide accommodation		Relationship breakdown		Mortgage Arrears	Rent Arrears	End of Assured Shorthold Tenancy	Loss of Other Rented or Tied Accommodation	Other Reason	Total
		Exclusions Parents	Exclusions Friends/Relatives	Relationship Breakdown Violent	Relationship Breakdown Other						
York	30-Jun-13	5	0	5	1	0	0	4	0	8	23
York	30-Sep-13	5	0	5	3	0	6	4	3	5	31
York	31-Dec-13	7	3	6	4	0	0	5	0	4	29
York	31-Mar-14	11	4	0	1	0	0	8	2	0	26
York	2013/14	28	7	16	9	0	6	21	5	17	109

England	2013/14	8530	6670	6130	2560	990	1740	13640	3020	8980	52260
York	30-Jun-14	3	3	1	3	0	4	3	0	3	20
York	30-Sep-14	0	3	7	4	0	0	4	0	5	23
York	31-Dec-14										0
York	31-Mar-15										0
York	2014/15	3	6	8	7	0	4	7	0	8	43
England	2014/15										

Successful Prevention Measures - to remain in existing home														
Period	Total No of Cases	Mediation	Conciliation (incl home visits)	Homeless Prevention Fund	Debt Advice	Resolving Housing Benefit problems	Resolving rent/service charge arrears	Sanctuary Scheme	Crisis intervention	Negotiation/legal advocacy	Other assistance	Mortgage arrears	Other	MRS
30-Jun-13	53	7	1	0	14	9	10	0	5	0	5	2	0	
30-Sep-13	51	15	1	0	12	3	5	5	5	3	2	0	0	
31-Dec-13	45	12	2	1	12	7	1	1	4	2	1	2	0	
31-Mar-14	56	7	3	1	14	9	9	0	2	5	4	2	0	
2013/14	205	41	7	2	52	28	25	6	16	10	12	6	0	0
30-Jun-14	58	4	4	0	16	9	7	0	9	1	7	1	0	
30-Sep-14	50	4	1	0	9	9	3	0	3	9	3	1	8	
31-Dec-14	0													
31-Mar-15	0													
2014/15	108	8	5	0	25	18	10	0	12	10	10	2	8	0

Homelessness prevented or relieved-household assisted to obtain alternative accommodation											
Period	Total No of Cases	Hostel or HMO	Private Rented	Friends/ Relatives		Supported Accommodation	Social Housing			Low cost home ownership	Other
			With Landlord Incentive Scheme	Without Landlord Incentive Scheme	Friends/ Relatives		Management Move Existing LA Tenant	Part 6 Offer LA accomm / RSL nom	Negotiation with RSL outside Part 6		
30-Jun-13	116	0	9	13	3	37	1	53	0	0	0
30-Sep-13	125	0	11	16	3	20	3	72	0	0	0
31-Dec-13	113	5	4	11	9	30	1	53	0	0	0
31-Mar-14	124	1	10	18	7	33	3	51	0	1	0
2013/14	478	6	34	58	22	120	8	229	0	1	0
30-Jun-14	121	2	2	17	8	37	3	51	0	1	0

58. Report of Cabinet Leader

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 five questions on the written report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The first four questions were put and answered as follows and Cllr

Alexander undertook to provide Members with a written answer to the remaining question. Councillor Alexander indicated that presenting this report and responding to questions upon it would be his last act, as Cabinet Leader and Leader of the Council, having resigned from the post as of this meeting.

(i) From Cllr Aspden

“While a recovering economy has seen a reduction in the level of unemployment in the City, is the leader disappointed that the numbers in employment in the City are still fewer than in 2011 (contrary to the national trend) and that it will be 2020 before pre recession employment levels in the City are seen again?”

The Leader replied:

The numbers of those employed in 2011 are lower than pre-recession employment levels, and I can confirm for Coun. Aspden that the recession started much earlier than 2011.

The recession and the Government’s targeting of the public sector in response to the deficit has had a disproportionate impact on numbers employed in the city due to our previously higher than average reliance on public sector jobs. So clearly it will take numbers in employment longer to return to 2011 levels. But we are on that path and thankfully this council is working very actively in attracting inward investment and jobs to the city to help ameliorate this impact.

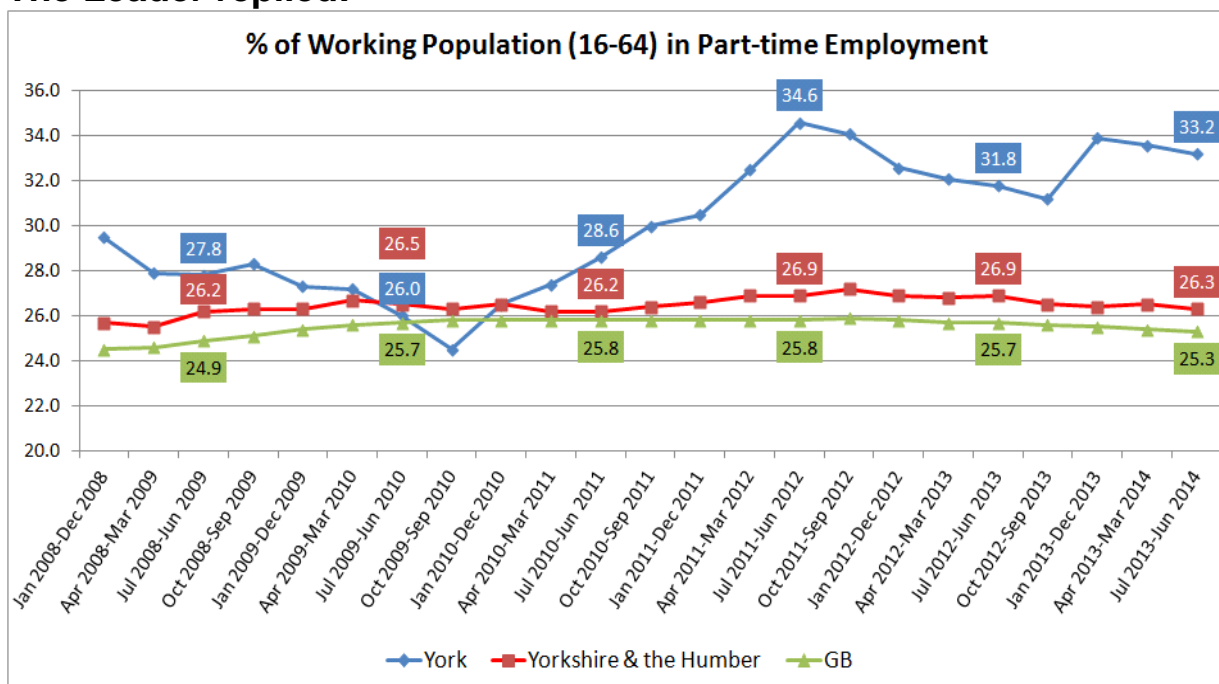
Whilst total numbers employed do paint part of the picture on the city’s economic performance, it must be seen alongside those claiming JSA to gain an accurate picture. With only 1% claiming, this shows the city and indeed individuals themselves have done extremely well in adapting to a more balanced public-private sector York economy.

The irony of getting a question about total numbers employed as opposed to numbers claiming JSA is not lost on me from the Liberal Democrats, a party whose policies would stifle and constrain economic growth in the city were they ever again in a position to implement them.

(ii) From Cllr Ayre

“What percentage of those in work are in part-time employment and how does this compare to the national average?”

The Leader replied:



(iii) From Cllr Runciman

“How many residents attended each Community Conversation meeting and how does this compare to attendance at ward committees held before 2011?”

The Leader replied:

The numbers attending each CC meeting were provided up until the last ordinary full council meeting, which Coun. Runciman can refer back to. Since then, attendances have been as follows:

Derwent	Mon 6th Oct	15
Wheldrake	Wed 8th Oct	31
Heslington	Wed 15th Oct	17
Dring. & Wood.	Thurs 6th Nov	20
Strensall	Fri 7th Nov	23
Osbaldwick	Mon 10th Nov	19
Holgate	Weds 26th Nov	23

Ward Committee meeting attendances from 2008 to 2011 were:

Ward Committee	Apr-08	Jul-08	Oct-08	Feb-09
Acomb	31	17	21	25
Bishopthorpe & Wheldrake	21	34	26	24
Clifton	32	30	32	24
Derwent, Heworth Without & Osbaldwick	34	12	32	14
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	48	37	55	37
Fishergate	46	31	28	22
Fulford & Heslington	15	10	16	10
Guildhall	32	45	34	34
Haxby & Wigginton	19	25	20	25
Heworth	40	30	10	5
Holgate	31	65	27	21
Hull Road	45	30	28	17
Huntington & New Earswick	29	60	24	10
Micklegate	150	350	35	32
Rural West York	35	23	31	46
Skelton, Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	26	0	27	34
Strensall	45	70	35	31
Westfield	12	25	26	32

Ward Committee	Apr-09	Jul-09	Oct-09	Feb-10
Acomb	15	40	20	20
Bishopthorpe & Wheldrake	25	40	26	25
Clifton	89	20	53	35
Derwent, Heworth Without & Osbaldwick	20	12	34	14
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	58	19	55	48
Fishergate	27	36	14	20
Fulford & Heslington	11	15	32	28
Guildhall	56	45	36	38
Haxby & Wigginton	25	43	37	25
Heworth	15	100	18	30
Holgate	21	15	16	23
Hull Road	14	30	20	15
Huntington & New Earswick	15	12	46	26
Micklegate	30	200	56	58
Rural West York	65	43	51	18
Skelton, Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	20	11	25	18

Strensall	17	18	20	31
Westfield	20	300	20	6

Ward Committee	Apr-10	Jul-10	Oct-10	Feb-11	Running Total (Apr - Feb)
Acomb	19	15	18	55	107
Bishopthorpe & Wheldrake	12	19	15	20	66
Clifton	32	35	38	34	139
Derwent, Heworth Without & Osbaldwick	83	35	25	37	180
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	48	193	30	33	304
Fishergate	32	44	45	16	137
Fulford & Heslington	28	17	30	55	130
Guildhall	37	37	41	43	158
Haxby & Wigginton	20	22	17	20	79
Heworth	70	48	15	35	168
Holgate	51	28	28	21	128
Hull Road	17	13	26	78	134
Huntington & New Earswick	25	23	20	23	91
Micklegate	43	300	78	30	451
Rural West York	20	20	19	57	116
Skelton, Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	32	15	22	15	84
Strensall	17	30	18	36	101
Westfield	10	40	350	10	410

The two different meetings are not comparable as the Community Conversations were held in each ward across the city, whereas a number of ward committees involved more than one ward meeting together. The nature of these meetings was also different.

(iv) From Cllr Ayre

“According to the UNESCO bid submission the council will spend ‘\$3million’ on its possible participation in the Creative Cities Network, could the leader outline where the budget will come from and provide more details on the proposed expenditure in particular \$265,000 on communications \$581,000 on services, \$232,400 on

an exchange programme, \$174,300.00 on an awards programme and \$89,640.00 on a TV package?”

The Leader replied:

Coun. Ayre might want to read the submission more carefully. The bid says that the city will be spending this amount of money and the financial figures submitted in the bid were a result of information given to us by Media Arts businesses, the Universities, cultural organisations, Creative York, at the time part of Science City York, and of course our own council budgets. The excellent work being undertaken in our higher education sector in Media Arts deserves special recognition here, with the building of new studios, development of undergraduate courses in media arts and their post graduate research programme.

We will be seeking to encourage them to use this unique international and high profile network to expand their exchange and research programme. This administration has also been aspirational in its support for York TV and work is still ongoing to develop the Guildhall into a Digital and Media Arts Centre.

Many of our York creative industries will be investing their own development monies into partnerships around the world which will allow their distinctive work to be recognised on an international stage. The UNESCO creative cities brand allows them a special entree into that network.

The council budgets identified in the bid: those for Arts and Culture, Creative Industries development, Science City York and marketing the city through Visit York, are already being consolidated into the ‘Make it York’ organisation, which will facilitate the city wide partnership delivering the benefits of the granting of this status to the city.

(v) From Cllr Ayre

“Does the leader believe his role can be done on a part-time basis?”

Reply:

There are council leaders around the country who carry out the role on a part-time basis, like North Yorkshire County Council’s leader for example. However personally, whilst I felt I had to do it full time, this is not necessarily the case for everyone. I would say

it's a personal choice how the person thinks they can most effectively do the job.

59. Election of Leader

The Lord Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of a new Council Leader.

Councillor Simpson-Laing moved and Councillor Potter seconded and it was

Resolved: That Councillor Dafydd Williams be appointed as the new Leader of the City of York Council.

60. Recommendations of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee

As Vice Chair of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee, Councillor Simpson-Laing moved the following recommendation, in relation to the appointment process for the Director and Assistant Director of Adult Services contained in minute 53 of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee meeting held on 24 November 2014:

“Recommend: That Council agree that a remuneration package for the Director of Adult Services be set at £88,000-£102,000.

Reason: To progress the appointment for this critical role.”

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

Resolved: That the above recommendation of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee meeting held on 24 November 2014 be approved. ¹.

Action Required

1. Proceed with recruitment to the post on the terms stated.

MB

61. Scrutiny - 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 89 to 92, on the work of the Committee.

Councillor Galvin then moved receipt of the report and it was

Resolved: That the scrutiny report be received and noted.

62. Activities of Outside Bodies

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

- North Yorkshire Pension Fund Sub-Committee - 20 February, 22 May, 10 July and 18 September 2014
- North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel – 10 April and 17 July 2014
- York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governor's – 11 June 2014
- Safer York Partnership/Drug & Alcohol Action Team Partnership Board – 31 July 2014
- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority – 24 September 2014

No questions had been submitted to representatives on outside bodies.

Councillor King reported his re-election as Vice Chair of the North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority and Steering Group and Vice Chair of their Audit and Performance Committee.

63. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

- (i) Changes to Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- (ii) Appointment to the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board

Cllr Cunningham-Cross, as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board moved, and Cllr Looker seconded the following recommendations to Council:

Recommended: That Council agree:

- (i) The changes to the Terms of Reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board, with the removal of the Chief Executive, the addition of a further elected representative, nominated by the Council (Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People) and for the Cabinet Member with the portfolio for Adult Social Care to be a named member of the Board, as set out in the Board's revised membership at Annex A.*
- (ii) To appoint Councillor Funnell as a member of the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.*

Reason: To fulfil statutory requirements and in order to respond to a request for a nomination to the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board for the remainder of the current municipal year.

Cllr Aspden then moved, and Cllr Steward seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

In paragraph 12 (i) on page 95 of the agenda, after the words "Health and Wellbeing Board, remove the rest of paragraph (i) and replace with the following:

"as follows including the removal of the Chief Executive:

- 2.1 Board members will be required to represent their organisation with sufficient seniority and influence for decision making. The membership of the Board will consist of:*
- i. The Leader of City of York Council ("the Council) or his/her nominee, together with a further 3 elected representatives nominated by the Council.*
 - ii. Two representatives of the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group appointed by them*
 - iii. A representative of HealthWatch York appointed by them*
 - iv. The Director of Public Health (represented in CYC by the Acting Director of Public Health)*
 - v. The Director of Children's Services, Skills and Education*
 - vi. The Director of Adult & Social Services*
 - vii. A representative for the York Voluntary and Community Sector*

- viii. *A representative of the York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*
- ix. *A representative of Leeds Partnership NHS Foundation Trust*
- x. *A representative of the Independent Care sector*
- xi. *A representative of the NHS Commissioning Board*
- xii. *A representative of North Yorkshire Police*
- xiii. *Other members appointed by the Board or the Leader of the Council after consultation with the Board.*

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

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

Resolved: That the above recommendations as amended in respect of membership of the Health & Wellbeing Board and the appointment of Councillor Funnell to the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board be approved. ¹.

Action Required

1. Update the terms of the H&WBB and confirm appointment to Partnership.

JP, TW

64. Suspension of Standing Orders

Councillor Steward moved and Councillor Aspden seconded a motion to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow five Notices of Motion to be considered at the meeting.

Resolved: That Standing Order 12(ii) be suspended to allow five Notices of Motion to be considered at the meeting.

65. Notices of Motion

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

(i) Impact of Savings and Underfunding on the NHS (proposed by Cllr Fraser, seconded by Cllr Funnell)

“Council welcomes the Government’s policy on integrated health and social care and local efforts to make this a reality for people in York, who should be central to NHS provision.

Council notes, however, the damaging impact of the £3bn Tory-Lib Dem Government’s top down reorganisation of the NHS, which is forcing local health economies to waste millions of pounds on pointless procurement exercises as they compete with the private sector for patient contracts.

This is all against a backdrop of severe financial pressure and significant historical underfunding of York’s healthcare system and mental health services in particular.

The cumulative effects on York patients include:

- Restricted access to certain treatments and procedures due to the Government’s insistence that the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (VoYCCG) take on the historic debt of the former Primary Care Trust (PCT);
- The excessive waiting times for access to talking therapies for those experiencing mental ill health; and
- The imposition of funding cuts to York Hospital including reduced payment to the hospital for in-patient readmissions within 30 days and the imposition of an arbitrary threshold for A&E patient numbers above which the hospital only receives a percentage of the full tariff for emergency admissions.

Council resolves:

- To request the Chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to make arrangements for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider conducting a review on the impact on local health services based on so called ‘efficiency’ savings and chronic underfunding of the NHS in York, to enable residents to understand what future services will look like over the period 2015-2020;
- To call on the city’s two MPs to lobby for a fairer deal in funding for York’s NHS;
- To publicly condemn the estimated £3bn unwanted and ineffective top down reorganisation of the NHS;
- To publicly support the NHS (Amended Duties and Powers) Bill which is being debated in Parliament and aims to halt privatisation in the health service by repealing sections of the

Health and Social Care Act 2012 that enforce competition in the NHS;

- To note the Labour Party's commitment to increase NHS spending by £2.5bn per year mid way through the next parliament."

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved. ¹.

- (ii) Additional Charges for the Collection of Residents' Domestic Rubbish (proposed by Cllr Richardson, seconded by Cllr Steward)

"Council agrees with concerns of residents that the Labour Cabinet has often forgotten it is there to serve residents and has failed to listen to their wishes and to properly engage. The Cabinet has too often been wrongly focused on grand plans outside the city and on vanity projects rather than on vital services such as salt bins, rubbish collection and potholes.

With the move to no overall control councillors resolve to work together to deliver the services residents want, deserve and respect. Council notes that Cabinet brought in a charge for second green bins and has discussed the potential for future additional charges. Council believes that council tax is the fee paid for services including rubbish collection and does not support additional charges. In particular the Council believes that a potential charge for the first green bin would be harmful to recycling rates as well as unfair to residents.

Therefore Council commits not to bringing in additional charges for the collection of residents' domestic rubbish for the life of the present Council, and endeavours to maintain this commitment during the next Council."

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Merrett as follows:

The **deletion** of the first two paragraphs and the **addition** of:

"The Council recognises the challenging financial climate for local government and the importance that places on all political parties to work together to help protect public services.

Against this background, it is important that the residents of York are fully consulted on all options for core services like waste collection. Whilst there should be consultation on all options, the Council recognises that charging for domestic waste collection will be unwelcome to York residents.”

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

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

Resolved: That the original motion be approved. ².

(iii) Extension of Deadline – Lendal Bridge Fines (proposed by Cllr Aspden, seconded by Cllr Warters)

“Council Notes:

- The judgement of the Government Traffic Adjudicator, Stephen Knapp, that City of York Council had “no power” to issue PCNs (Penalty Charge Notices) under its Lendal Bridge trial.
- The decision of the Labour Cabinet to only repay PCN fines to those who apply for a refund and to close applications on the 31st December.

Council Believes:

That the Labour Cabinet must repay all the Lendal Bridge fines.

Council Resolves: To ask Cabinet to extend the 31st December deadline and to instruct officers to put in place a system for automatically repaying all Lendal Bridge fines.”

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved. ³.

(iv) Local Pubs – Article 4 Direction (proposed by Cllr D’Agorne, seconded by Cllr Aspden)

“Council notes with concern the growing number of local pubs that are closing and being threatened with conversion to supermarkets,

in some cases without the opportunity for the local community to have a say in the process.

Council further notes the support of local MP's High Bayley and Julian Sturdy and supports the intent of Early Day Motion 208, "That this House believes that permitted development rights are leaving pubs in England vulnerable to demolition or conversion to a range of retail uses without planning permission; further believes, in light of evidence from the Campaign for Real Ale, that two pubs a week are converted to supermarkets, and that these planning loopholes are contributing to the loss of valued community amenities; is concerned that local people are being denied a say in the future of their neighbourhoods; and so urges the Government to bring forward amendments to the General Permitted Development Order 1995 so that any demolition or change of use involving the loss of a pub would require planning permission.

In the short term, in order to provide local accountability, Council calls on Cabinet to follow the example of other councils by swiftly introducing an Article 4 exemption to GPDO 1995 so as to require application for planning permission for such change of use within the boundary of the City of York, starting with the Punch Bowl in the Groves as an urgent priority.

In addition Council supports the provision of advice to local groups on how to register their local pub as a 'community asset', identifying key social assets in local communities that need to be protected."

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved. ⁴.

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

- (v) Removal of on-board Conductors – Northern Rail/Transpennine Express (proposed by Cllr Simpson-Laing)

“Council notes with concern that in the consultation document for the franchising of *Northern Rail* and *Trans Pennine Express*

there is a requirement for bidders to outline how they will remove the safety critical role of the guard from their services.

Council's response to the consultation for the refranchising argued that service reductions, staff reductions and ticket office closures are based on a false construct that regional rail is unaffordable, when in fact the problem is systemic under-investment.

Council is extremely concerned about the potential impact such a retrograde move would have on travellers to and from York and across the region in general. Passenger Focus research demonstrates that passengers perception of safety and security is greatly enhanced by the presence of conductors on trains.

Conductors provide an invaluable service to passengers providing:

- A vital customer service role including, travel information and assisting passengers with mobility issues to board and alight trains comfortably and safely at the many stations in the region that are not staffed.
- Dealing with issues of health emergencies, anti-social behaviour and reacting to safety and operational incidents.

Council is deeply concerned that the alcohol ban on a number of Saturday services, to and from York, will be unworkable without guards and the effect this will have on York's Visitor economy.

It is the view of Council that for some the removal of guards will make train travel to and from York less attractive.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to:

- *York, North Yorkshire and East Riding* and the *Leeds City Region* Local Enterprise Partnerships and to the City's two MPs to oppose the proposal to remove on-board conductors and request that they lobby for their retention
- contact the Department for Transport and relevant Government Minister to ensure on-board conductors are retained within the service specification."

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

Resolved: That the above motion be approved. ⁵.

Action Required

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Refer to Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee. | DS, SE |
| 2. To note in relation to the Council's budget. | IF |
| 3. Prepare a report for Cabinet/Cabinet Member and add to the Council's Forward Plan. | SCT |
| 4. Prepare a report for Cabinet and add to the Council's Forward Plan. | SCT |
| 5. Write to the City's MP's, York, North Yorkshire & East Riding and Leeds City Region LEP's and contact the DfT regarding the removal of the guard from the train services referred to in the motion. | TE |

66. **Questions to the Cabinet Leader and Cabinet Members received under Standing Order 11.3(a)**

Forty five questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members had been received 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 Watson:

“By imposing the closure of Waterworld are you not prejudging the stadium planning application and placing your groups planning committee members into a preconceived decision?”

No.

The closure of Waterworld was agreed as part of the September Cabinet report. The subsequent Full Council meeting in October gave its support to the progression of the project. Planning consent is not required for the closure of Waterworld, thus it is not a planning matter.

(ii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Aspden:

“In view of the relatively low levels of unemployment in the city, what actions does the Cabinet intend to take over the next 4 months to address labour shortages in key sectors such as social care and the construction industry?”

A shortage of labour in the construction industry is a national issue as projects get off the ground in higher numbers than anytime since 2007. Clearly there will be a time lag in the labour market responding to that new confidence in the economy, but in York we

are doing what we can to get people trained up to work in this sector.

There has been a lot of good work taking place this year which was highlighted through the construction scrutiny report, notably in the linking of construction businesses with education and training providers such as schools and colleges.

The ward member for Fulford I'm sure will be as pleased as I am to see the council's procurement process acting as a mechanism for improving recruitment and training opportunities for local people on major capital projects like the extension of Fulford School and elsewhere in the city, on the Community Stadium.

Job Centre Plus is also working with its clients, training providers and employers to retrain and upskill local residents in both sectors.

In social care, there is an ageing workforce, with expertise leaving the sector and increasing demand for services, all of which is putting pressure on the delivery of quality care services.

Looking at the shortage of key workers in social care is a focus for the transformation of adult social care which includes the following proposals:

- for recruitment and retention of key workers in York and what the council could contribute/enable; and*
- for how CYC's Workforce strategy could be amended to support the recruitment of key workers*

This work is at a relatively early stage but will be progressed by the relevant Cabinet Members over the period to which your question relates.

In March we have another Jobs Fair, building on the success of events held previously where employers, including those in each of these sectors, are linking up with those interested in working in these areas.

My Cabinet colleagues with responsibility for learning and skills and adult social care I'm sure would be more than happy to expand on my answer for you following this meeting.

(iii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Steward:

“When did he become a believer in freezing council tax rather than increasing it?”

When the expected level of freeze grant matches our assumptions for a council tax increase. I would therefore not commit to anything beyond the next year.

(iv) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Watson:

“What, if anything do you intend doing to address the concerns of the petitioners on the subject of Yearsley pool?”

I hear the concerns of petitioners loud and clear and will be speaking with colleagues about the current position following the earlier announcement that Yearsley’s subsidy would have to be reduced. For the record, we have no plans to close Yearsley swimming pool.

I would like to hear what progress the Yearsley Pool Action Group, the council and other interested parties have made prior to the Working Group getting underway with its review of the operation before making further comment, but I remain hopeful a solution can be found that enables the pool to remain open to residents.

(v) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Aspden:

“How much has the council paid to the Leeds City Region, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the local LEPs and how much of this has the authority received back (not promised, not national funding allocations) so far in increased investment in the city and its public services?”

The implication of this question is somewhat depressing. The Leeds City Region is a geographic area only, the LCR LEP is something quite different.

Local Enterprise Partnerships fundamentally exist as vehicles for distributing national and European funds focussed on growing the economy on a regional basis.

Therefore money from local authorities is invested in such partnerships has never been intended to be distributed back directly, but rather primarily to develop the plans and proposals

which enable them to compete and access large pots of funding which require this level of robustness. So for both LEPs, this includes writing strategic economic plans to demonstrate priorities and why they will make a difference, detailed work on particular programme proposals and putting in place the mechanisms to assess and assure to government funding given will be delivered effectively.

The Leeds City Region and York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEPs are bodies we can choose to be a member of or not. By being a member of both we can play our part in a joined up approach to developing economically, along with all the other local authorities that are members. York has its seat at the table and can make its case for funding that will boost jobs and opportunities for York residents.

To not be a member of either would put our plans for economic growth at risk, economic growth which is so fundamental to the future of local public services. LEPs are the bodies through which York gains access to Local Growth funding, on general issues such as skills, business growth and transport (outer ring road roundabout upgrades) and more specifically for York Central and Biovale.

These are the sort of opportunities that would be lost but for this membership. We will therefore continue to engage and make the case for funding for York.

There are a number of ways that the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership has directly invested in York which have not been national programmes and which would not have been happened but for the Leeds City Deal:

- *£136k for Apprenticeship Hub enabling 88 Apprenticeship starts in SMEs; plus annual campaigns to target young people and SMEs; targeting growth sectors of Business, Financial & Professional; Creative & Digital; Health; Construction*
- *£180k for Head Start Programme to support York, Craven, Selby & Harrogate, including direct funding of York Learning to support over 100 longer-term unemployed 18-24s back into work, and 50 into sustainable jobs*

- Employer ownership fund of £17.1m has been announced which York businesses will have access to for employer led skills programmes.

In addition to this, the following programmes have been funded through the work gearing up for national funding:

	West Yorkshire Combined Authority (+ Leeds City Region LEP)	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP
CURRENT COST		
Current annual membership cost	£48,436	£40,000
INVESTMENT IN YORK PROJECTS TO DATE		
Local Growth Fund	£1,700,000 York Central	£5,000,000 BioHub
		£2,600,000 Askham Bryan Centres of Excellence
	£3,000,000 BioHub	
		£8,300,000 Sand Hutton Agri-food innovation campus (outside of York LA area)
Business Growth Fund	£148,000	£254,000

	West Yorkshire Combined Authority (+ Leeds City Region LEP)	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP
CURRENT COST		
CURRENT ANTICIPATED ADDITIONAL FUTURE COSTS		
Transport Fund	£42,289,000 (net present value over 38 years). Annual cost up to peak of £3,665,000 per year in 2024/25.	£0
CURRENT ANTICIPATED RETURNS ON INVESTMENT		

Transport Fund	£66,800,000 towards CYC schemes in the next 10 years including over £20m towards York Central and over £30m to York outer ring road.	N/A – no capital transport scheme.
Other	£1,000,000 Guildhall Local Growth Deal bid being put forward to Government	Significant further shares of government funding through LEPs and Combined Authorities
	Significant further shares of government funding through LEPs and Combined Authorities	

Of course, York wouldn't have to be a part of Local Enterprise Partnership, but it therefore wouldn't get any transport or investment funding from Government at all.

The amount the council has committed to date is:

<u>LCR/WYCA</u>	<u>YNYER</u>
£35,000 set up costs from 13/14	£10,000 12/13
£50,985 13/14	£10,000 13/14
£48,436 14/15	£40,000 14/15

(vi) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Steward:

“What will be the total cost of the council of the Lendal Bridge trial, including a breakdown of estimated officer time, once all fines have been refunded?”

I'd be more than happy to supply this figure once, as your question says, all fines have been refunded and we know the final figure.

(vii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Steward:

“How much higher is the cost of the Lendal Bridge trial to the council due to the decision to initially only pay back people appealing?”

It is not currently possible to answer this question until Members agree the process for how future refunds will be actioned.

viii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism from Cllr Barton:

“In view of the news that York City Knights are no longer to be involved in the Community Stadium does the Cabinet Member not think that she, personally, should have issued a full and detailed explanation to her fellow Councillors about what is happening here rather than abdicate the responsibility to Officers resulting in a less than totally explanatory email being circulated?”

Considering that there are live legal proceedings underway between the York City Knights and the Council, it is not appropriate to comment on any aspect of this as it could prejudice the council's legal position.

The council's legal officer gave a very clear steer in this respect and although Cllr Barton may feel he could do otherwise, I am not in the habit of ignoring the legal officer when he has issued clear advice to Members on legal issues.

(ix) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism from Cllr D'Agorne:

What is the estimated total cost to York council tax payers for the proposed one day Tour de Yorkshire event in May 2015 and where will this money be found from?

The estimated cost of the Tour de Yorkshire is £250k of which it is proposed that £100k is funded from the Council's iTravel budget and the balance £150k from the Economic Infrastructure Fund. A report detailing the event is on the Agenda for Cabinet on 16th December 2014.

(x) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism from Cllr Barton:

“Following York City Knights withdrawal from the Community Stadium venture, has the Risk Assessment Document been rewritten and any elements previously shown as “medium” upgraded to “high”?”

The officer responsible for the project manages a full risk and issue register. This is reported to the Project Board on a monthly basis. This risk log is commercially sensitive, particularly relating to

this matter. All risks are being effectively managed and appropriate risk weightings allocated.

Where the Project Board believes the risk profile of the project has changed significantly, exception reports would be made to Cabinet or other appropriate decision making body.

(xi) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism from Cllr Barton:

“What is the estimated cost to the Council of the legal proceedings referred to in the recent Community Stadium project warning issued by Officers to Members?”

Again, considering that there are live legal proceedings underway between the York City Knights and the Council, it is not appropriate to comment on any aspect of these proceedings, particularly cost estimates. Any such comments in the public may prejudice the council’s legal and financial position.

(xii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism from Cllr Cuthbertson:

“Listing each pool separately, for each month for the last 2 years what were the attendances at York swimming pools?”

York Swimming Pools - User figures 2012 to 2014												
USERS	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13
ENERGISE	18797	18557	19198	17295	18297	15424	15262	0	10954	15778	15231	15130
YEARSLEY	10427	11628	10925	12129	11946	10775	11087	10077	3587	9633	10411	10360
WATERWORLD	17763	7703	13785	14571	22545	6279	6402	7254	4732	10303	11172	9908
YORK SPORT					132	7014	8665	7610	6323	9861	9660	9568
USERS	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
ENERGISE	15372	15420	15914	15649	15654	14653	17256	12923	10103	17638	16116	16907
YEARSLEY POOL	10077	10497	10464	10408	10163	9571	10129	9617	6582	10268	10371	10464
WATERWORLD	14980	15259	8622	8038	9640	5891	8906	6146	4278	8311	12749	7411
YORK SPORT	9019	9498	8210	6391	10101	8836	9659	8533	6320	11202	11095	11354

(xiii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism from Cllr Cuthbertson:

“How many people attended this years Illuminating York events, how does this compare to 2013 and 2012, and what was the cost to the council of this event in each of the last three years?”

In 2014 an estimated 58,000 people attended Illuminating York overall. We do not have sophisticated enough technology to give exact numbers but this figure is based on a daily estimated headcount at each venue.

In 2013 the estimated figure was 50,000.

In 2012 the figure was only calculated for the main ticketed event (as we didn't run supporting pieces that year), which was 18,606 (although many others would have visited supporting venues such as the NRM and the National Trust etc).

The cost to the council was £26k in 2012 / £33k in 2013 and £33k in 2014.

(xiv) To the Cabinet Member for Health & Community Engagement from Cllr Barton:

“Bearing in mind that less than 1% of the population attended the series of Community Engagement Meetings does not the Cabinet Member think it time to reinstate the previously higher levels of Ward Committee funding to give residents a real opportunity to actively “engage” in their Ward’s activities?”

The series of “Community Conversations” events represents just one of the many engagement activities that the Council has undertaken over the past 12 months, engaging with many thousands of residents on a wide range of issues in a variety of ways. There are a number of ways for residents to engage with the Council and help to design and to shape the services we deliver. I want to create more opportunities for residents to have a real say over where, when and how council services are delivered – rather than simply access to small amounts of additional grant funding.

(xv) To the Cabinet Member for Health & Community Engagement from Cllr Doughty:

“Conservative calling-in members welcome that the Labour Cabinet have been encouraged to reconsider their decision to close the youth and young adult service at Castlegate. Given the Health and Wellbeing Board strategy was previously ignored by Cabinet, can the Cabinet Member please explain how the HWBB exerts its influence and impacts on the decision making of the Council and its partners?”

The purpose of a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) is to set the overall strategic vision for the health and wellbeing of a place. York's HWBB has set a clear vision for the city "to be a community where all residents enjoy long, healthy and independent lives." In order to deliver this vision, the Board has set a number of priorities and actions which can be found in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Board is made up of key leaders and decision-makers across the health and care system (and beyond) and it is the responsibility of board members collectively to deliver on the strategy. Most of this work takes place through the main sub-boards or is delegated to individual organisations to complete. Progress is reported back to and monitored by the Board.

The HWBB deals with complex, city-wide issues which often require all organisations to mobilise resources in order to deliver the necessary changes.

(xvi) To the Cabinet Member for Health & Community Engagement from Cllr Ayre:

"As it is now nearly 18 months since the Council started to seek partners to provide and run the Low fields Care Village, when was the "competitive dialogue" phase concluded, why did it take so long, and when does the Cabinet Member now expect work on site to start and the first homes to be occupied?"

This is an extremely complex and ambitious project and the competitive dialogue phase has not yet concluded. As it is still ongoing it is not possible to answer the other questions raised.

(xvii) To the Cabinet Member for Health & Community Engagement from Cllr Waller:

"As the Cabinet Member has previously said that she is involved in each stage of the hand over of community centres, could she explain how they are being equipped to respond to the challenges of having no grant nor caretaker provision, and does she not think it would be fairer for community centres to have a similar level of support to the 'hubs' developed by the council including Space 217 in Lindsey Avenue?"

Officers have worked proactively and openly with community centre management committees over the last 18 months to support them in developing robust business plans that ensure they can flourish without Council funding from April 2015 onwards. Significant time and resources have gone into this process with many early successes. There is a great deal of skill and energy in those communities and they are focussed on developing their centres in a sustainable way, just as all many other community centres across our city already do.

A network group has been established to place a focus on the skills and knowledge required to enable the community groups to take full control of managing their community assets and to provide support in addressing any gaps.

Finance plans have also been worked up for each centre to enable the management committee to look forward and plan to address any financial pressures. I am pleased to say that some centres are already looking to take the next step and planning for a formal asset transfer.

The Council no longer has the luxury of continuing to fund everything we have done until now, which is why this work has been so important in helping communities to take on more and become less reliant on Council services. This is the only way we will succeed given the scale of the financial challenge now and into the future.

(xviii) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Doughty:

“Residents have recently reported that pre-sorted recycling has been cumulatively thrown into refuse vehicles for landfill rather than recycling on a number of occasions. Given this disheartening sight where citizen efforts are literally 'wasted', can the Cabinet Member please advise how many collection shifts have been lost this municipal year due to recycling vehicles being out of use and replaced with a standard refuse cart?”

There have been a number of issues with the recycling vehicles that undertake the collections in the city's terraced areas. From April 2014, there have been 41 days when these vehicles have been unavailable for use and a conventional refuse vehicle has had to be used instead. However, it is important to note that the

recyclates are not then land-filled. The Council's disposal contractor is able to treat and sort this small amount of co-mingled recyclate at no extra cost to us, meaning that the material is properly recycled and none of it ends up wasted.

The lease on the current vehicles expires in March 2015 and the service is currently assessing a number of different vehicle options so they can identify suitable replacements.

(xix) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Waller:

“How many reports has the council received during the current year about trees and hedges overgrowing and impeding public roads and footpaths, what action does the council take to require owners to cut back these obstruction, what is the average time taken by owners to undertake this task, and what is the current longest outstanding complaint of this sort?”

Council officers don't currently keep records of the numbers of vegetation complaints and how they are progressing.

The estimated numbers are in the region of 500 to 600 per year mainly concentrated during the summer months.

When a complaint is made, if the address is given a letter is sent out asking the owner to rectify the situation. If the address is vague a site visit will normally be made next time someone is in the area and then a letter sent. If the complaint is very vague (e.g. there's an overgrown hedge in Askham Lane) no action will be taken until more information is provided.

If no further complaints are made it is assumed that the problem has been put right. If a further complaint is made then a second letter is sent with a more formal instruction to put the situation right otherwise we (CYC) may carry out the works and recharge the costs to the owner. If there is no improvement then an instruction to cut the vegetation is issued and the cost recharged. However please see below for caveats.

The time taken can vary quite considerably. If the address is given there are times when the work has already been done before our letter reaches the person because they already had the matter in hand. Other times someone is away on holiday or unwell and it can take a few weeks. In other cases the process can be

protracted due to disputes over whose responsibility it is and if we don't have the name and address we can't recharge the cost of the works - we have no budget to carry out works and not make a recharge.

We will also try to be as lenient as possible when there are difficulties due to age or infirmity for example as to do otherwise tends to cause some upset and poor image problems for the authority.

In addition there are times when a well maintained hedge may have been overgrowing for years without it being raised as a problem, then suddenly it becomes an issue for someone but to insist on a savage cut back to the highway boundary causes the hedge to become an unsightly mess and threatens it's survival (we had this a year or so back on Clifton Green). In this sort of case we might resort to asking the owner to make several cuts over the coming years so the hedge isn't killed off.

(xx) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Reid:

“Could the Cabinet Member confirm how many residents have paid for a second green bin collection and how this compares to budget assumptions?”

1,512 households have paid for an additional garden waste collection compared to a budgeted estimate of 3,500.

(xxi) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr D'Agorne:

“What is the timescale now for establishing the Congestion Commission?”

At the July Full Council, the Greens requested that this was brought to a meeting of Audit & Governance and this was subsequently agreed. As such, 3 options are now available, and I am happy to proceed however the Opposition would like in this regard:

- 1. A report could go to the scheduled meeting of Audit & Governance in February, followed by Cabinet in March. What work could be done between then and purdah would likely be limited.*

2. *A special meeting of Audit & Governance could be convened. This would require the assent of the Chair.*
3. *The report could go directly to Cabinet in February, given the amount of discussion that has taken place with Opposition Leaders.*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr D'Agorne for his constructive engagement on this issue – it is clear he wants to see this work progressed, as do I. I hope all Opposition Leaders can proceed on the same basis in order to tackle the longstanding traffic problems in this city.

(xxii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Reid:

“Of the Lendal Bridge refund requests processed to date how many (in total and as a percentage) have been for York postcodes, how many for the rest of the UK and how many for overseas addresses?”

Of the 5460 payments issued, 1927 (35%) have been to YO postcodes, 3531 (65%) have been to the rest of the UK, and 2 overseas (0.04%).

(xxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Aspden:

“How many meetings were held and where with prospective tenderers for the East Coast Main Line franchise at which City of York Cabinet members and/or officials specifically made the case for retaining the franchise HQ in York and what was the reaction of each of the tenderers?”

Meetings were held in West Offices with all three short listed bidders for the Inter City East Coast passenger rail franchise. These meetings were hosted by Councillor James Alexander as Chair of the Consortium of East Coast Main Line Authorities. Discussion specifically included the issue of the retention of the franchise headquarters in York. The representatives of the bidders noted the matter, but were unable to provide an indication of their companies' response due to the restrictions placed upon them by the Department for Transport's procurement process. The Project Manager for the Consortium also raised the location of the headquarters with one of the Virgin bid team during a separate conversation with the same reply. Subsequent to the appointment of Inter City Railways as the franchisee, officers have written to the

parent companies seeking meetings with both officers and members. The issue of the York headquarters was raised.

Virgin confirmed that they would reply in more detail after the standstill period for the franchise award which expired on Monday – since then it has been confirmed that the headquarters will remain in York, and that a rail academy would be established in the city.

I am sure all Councillors will want to join me in welcoming this news and congratulating Cllr Alexander for helping to secure this outcome.

(xxiv) To the Cabinet Member for Transport 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?”

This year to date (1st Jan to 3rd Dec) there have been 696 total traffic signal faults reported to our maintenance contractors. This number was 678 for the same period last year.

We do not have a means of recording the total duration for which signals have been out of operation; however, for high priority faults in this period – which are recorded in their own indicator – 91% were resolved within 4 hours, compared to 82% for the same period last year.

(xxv) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Reid:

“In view of the fact that successive Cabinet Members for Transport have told previous Council meetings that they were trying to get more information about bus service reliability in York, could the current Cabinet Member now say - for each of the last 6 months - what reliability was achieved on stage carriage services (quoting commercial and subsidised separately) operating in the City?”

For 2013/14, 84% of non-frequent buses (fewer than 6 per hour on a given route) ran on time (between 1 minute early and 5 minutes 59 seconds late).

The average excess wait time for frequent buses (6 or more buses per hour on a given route) was 0.6 minutes.

Both of these measures demonstrate an improvement in the performance of the bus network against the previous year, demonstrating the positive impact that the Better Bus Area and other interventions have had over this period.

A monthly breakdown is unavailable. A breakdown by operator is not currently possible under the current agreement with those operators; however, the Council does review real time data for services on which the relevant equipment is fitted on a regular basis, receives lost mileage submissions from the operators, and deploys monitoring staff to review punctuality/reliability and passenger origin/destination.

(xxvi) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Runciman:

“At the last meeting the Cabinet Member for Transport said that the number of vehicles using different car parks would be assessed to determine the success or otherwise of the free morning parking trial and given this, would he now publish comparisons between the numbers using the free parking option and the numbers recorded prior to the trial, together with a month by month comparison of total car park usage and income comparing this year with last year?”

I did not say “that the number of vehicles using different car parks would be assessed to determine the success or otherwise of the free morning parking trial”, I said that occupancy levels will be assessed using the car parking entry/exit counters.

This information is not yet available due to ongoing problems with the operation of the automatic traffic counters. Data is currently still being collated from the restricted number of available car park counters – along with income levels this will provide the main source of information for reviewing the trial once it has completed.

(xxvii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Reid:

“Would the Cabinet Member provide up to date information comparing the revenue derived from the Marygate Car Park, since it has had barriers introduced, with the equivalent period during the previous year?”

Income from Marygate Car from the start of July to the end of October totalled £231k in 2014/15. The equivalent figure for 2013/14 was £246k.

There are a variety of initiatives we have undertaken, in order to balance the Council's budget in the face of massive cuts from the Conservative Lib-Dem Government while also trying to support the economy of the city centre that will have had an impact on parking income in any particular car park. These include new Park & Ride sites at Askham Bar and Poppleton Bar, the free morning parking trial, closure of Haymarket car park, the use of part of Marygate car park for Network Rail's refurbishment of Scarborough Bridge and the new Minster Card parking permit.

It is worth pointing out that the reduction in car parking income in Marygate July-October is proportionately less than the reduction in car parking income overall, and also proportionately less than the reduction in car parking income in the same car park April-June, ie. the period before the introduction of Pay on Exit.

Thus it would appear that the introduction of Pay on Exit at Marygate may in fact have helped the income levels at this location; however, an interim report on the first 6 months of the trial is currently being prepared that will provide operational data for the first six months of the trial, lessons learned and actions going forward.

(xxviii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Reid:

"I understand that the Marygate barrier was not working on the 8th November. In total, how many faults on the barrier and payment mechanisms at the car park have been reported since the trial commenced and what has been the total loss in income?"

Faults have been identified across a total of 17 days.

The interim report mentioned in my answer to question xxxvii will address the issue of faults; however, most of the issues with the barrier operation have now been resolved and it is anticipated that the number of faults will reduce significantly.

It is not possible to calculate a resultant loss of income with any accuracy; however, officers have predicted that once this has happened Pay on Exit receipts will outperform Pay and Display receipts.

(xxix) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Hyman:

“Could the Cabinet Member publish the monthly number of park and ride journeys made from each site – including the newly commissioned ones – comparing 2014 with 2013?”

	2013	2014
<i>Rawcliffe</i>		
<i>Jan</i>	65888	70933
<i>Feb</i>	78187	75535
<i>Mar</i>	80023	82615
<i>Apr</i>	90396	89086
<i>May</i>	89065	86777
<i>Jun</i>	78246	70455
<i>Jul</i>		
<i>Aug</i>		
<i>Sept</i>	84895	71486
<i>Oct</i>	95960	81357
<i>Nov</i>	93270	80603
<i>Askham Bar</i>		
<i>Jan</i>	68288	73770
<i>Feb</i>	69093	69363
<i>Mar</i>	74273	80437
<i>Apr</i>	74072	72162
<i>May</i>	77121	73606
<i>Jun</i>	67639	61813
<i>Jul</i>		
<i>Aug</i>		
<i>Sept</i>	77807	74276
<i>Oct</i>	84943	83242
<i>Nov</i>	84203	85703
<i>Designer Outlet</i>		
<i>Jan</i>	62046	69734
<i>Feb</i>	68721	70590
<i>Mar</i>	69559	76944
<i>Apr</i>	75100	79386
<i>May</i>	77360	77660
<i>Jun</i>	72840	70666
<i>Jul</i>		
<i>Aug</i>		
<i>Sept</i>	77297	76182

Oct	84119	84744
Nov	87046	89196
Grimston Bar		
Jan	43715	49447
Feb	50527	50951
Mar	53367	55720
Apr	58481	57628
May	60532	55834
Jun	52908	47679
Jul		
Aug		
Sept	55379	53502
Oct	60897	59302
Nov	64286	61140
Monks Cross		
Jan	56202	56558
Feb	57645	55439
Mar	59207	60792
Apr	64155	75821
May	62468	75747
Jun	57703	68563
Jul		
Aug		
Sept	59897	69370
Oct	69168	74736
Nov	65334	70773
Poppleton		
Jun		8482
Jul		
Aug		
Sept		20722
Oct		25391
Nov		23274

As a result of First York replacing their on-bus ticket machines (and the interface with various back office systems) in July, accurate figures for July and August are unavailable.

(xxx) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Waller:

“In light of planned cuts to the 2015/16 highways budget could the Cabinet Member outline any proposals to cut frontline staff and detail the consequential reduction in services in the ancient monument department, the blacksmiths department, the drainage department, the highways department or in yard foreman?”

Consultation has recently taken place with all highways staff and senior officers are still analysing the responses – it would not be right for me to pre-judge that outcome. The final structure of front line staff will be sufficient to deliver the known workload for 2015/16.

(xxxii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Orrell:

“Will the Cabinet Member listen to local concerns and restore gritting routes in Huntington on Brockfield Park Drive/Road and North Lane?”

The criteria for treating carriageways were established through last year’s review following an extensive consultation with residents and interested groups, which put in place a clear, fair and transparent policy that puts residents’ safety at its core and that brought us in line with comparable authorities, while achieving the savings Government cuts have made necessary.

Cllr Williams has announced that, should he be elected Leader of the Council, additional resource will be directed to winter maintenance as a result of savings made by reducing the size of the Cabinet. Officers are exploring the most effective ways of deploying this resource.

(xxxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Reid:

“Could the Cabinet Member confirm how much has been spent so far on the roll-out of 20mphs zones since 2011 and how much is planned to be spent in 2014/15?”

For the citywide residential 20mph programme, £268,200 was spent in total for the years 2011/12, 2012/13 & 2013/14. During this financial year 2014/15, there is an approved allocation of £235,000 within the Capital Programme. This work has been funded through a dedicated Government grant.

(xxxiii) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr Waller:

“Will the Cabinet Member restore the gritting routes to Hob Moor School along ‘little’ Green Lane and along the bus route through Kingsway West, Windsor Garth, Ascot Way, Danesfort Avenue and St Stephen’s Road?”

The criteria for treating carriageways were established through last year’s review following an extensive consultation with residents and interested groups, which put in place a clear, fair and transparent policy that puts residents’ safety at its core and that brought us in line with comparable authorities, while achieving the savings Government cuts have made necessary.

Cllr Williams has announced that, should he be elected Leader of the Council, additional resource will be directed to winter maintenance as a result of savings made by reducing the size of the Cabinet. Officers are exploring the most effective ways of deploying this resource.

(xxxiv) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr D’Agorne:

“When will the induction loops for Fulford Rd/Broadway junction be installed, now that the resurfacing and lining has been completed?”

The induction loops at Fulford Road will be installed early in the new year as part of a comprehensive programme of loop cutting.

(xxxv) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr D’Agorne:

“What impact has the free parking scheme in the city centre had on occupancy levels, total income and pollution levels?”

As I stated in my answer to a similar question at October Full Council, there will be a variety of factors that will have had an impact apart from the free parking trial. Particularly in terms of pollution levels, these factors include traffic volume, changes to vehicle fleet, weather, roadworks, and the several other parking and travel initiatives we have undertaken in order to support the economy of the city centre. As such it is not currently possible to disaggregate the specific impact of the free parking offer.

However, a review will be carried out once the trial has been completed. In terms of pollution levels these are recorded annually so won’t be available for 2014/15 until next spring.

(xxxvi) To the Cabinet Member for Transport from Cllr D'Agorne:

“Following the charge for Minster badges how many residents’ tickets have been issued compared with a similar period last year?”

Minster Badge permits issued between 30/06/2014 - 05/12/2014 = 8325

Old Minster Badge permits issued between 30/06/2013 - 05/12/2013 = 1837

(xxxvi)To the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People from Cllr Brooks:

“What urgent action is the Cabinet Member taking in light of the very worrying findings of recently published research carried out in conjunction with Save the Children which put both York constituencies in the worst 25% of constituencies in the country for ability to 'read well' at age 11?”

[Research recently published by Read on. Get on - a coalition of charities, parents, teachers and businesses, puts two York constituencies in the worst 25% of constituencies in the country for the percentage of children who can 'read well' at the age of 11: 64% in York Central and only 61% in York Outer]

Reading is one of the most important skills a child acquires in the first years of their school life – and learning to “enjoy” reading is for me of equal importance. In fact the enjoyment of reading starts well before children begin their formal education, and a lot of work through children’s centres and Early Years settings focuses on introducing children to books and encouraging the habit of reading and being read to as part of daily life. FRED – an initiative aimed at Fathers reading to their children (Fathers Reading Every Day) is particularly aimed at getting young fathers into the habit of reading to their children.

But as well as these initiatives, and many more, for pre-school children we also have been putting on regular training opportunities for teachers to share some of the different techniques for teaching children to read: it is self evident that there is not one method that painlessly works for every child, and some of the skills teachers need is recognising that what works for some

in a class may not necessarily work for everyone. Reading levels have been analysed at individual school level leading to the targeting of bespoke training and support to improve the teaching of reading in York Central and Outer York.

I am pleased to say that the most recent data for York shows that our Reading gap at Level 4 is now at -9 better than the national average at -10. There has also been a 10 percentage point improvement in the number of good and better primary schools in 2013-14 with 86% of primary schools being judged good or outstanding. Attainment and progress in reading is one of the criteria Ofsted focus on as part of their inspection framework. But we do recognise that this is an ongoing challenge – we want the best for all our children. With that in mind we have launched the initiative, York 300, where we have identified the children who qualify for the Pupil Premium with the aim of raising the achievement of this cohort across the city, whether they are in significant clusters within a particular school, or whether they are just one or two within a cohort.

This was launched in September 2014, and has just culminated in a challenging but stimulating conference led by Sir John Dunford – National Pupil Premium Champion – and attended by Heads, staff and governors from across the City. To monitor the effectiveness of this initiative Learning and Culture Scrutiny are making it a Scrutiny topic to report back next year; and I am asking the YorOK Board to also receive regular reports on progress.

(xxxviii) To the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People from Cllr Waller:

“What work has been undertaken to assess the loss of services in the community as a consequence of the planned funding cuts to Children's Centres (especially the joint activity with local NHS staff) and does the Cabinet Member not feel that these cuts fly in the face of what the council has been claiming it is doing for vulnerable communities in the city?”

The work around Children's Centres is currently following a two year programme. The savings proposed in the current budget are focused on management and staff efficiencies, no Children's Centre is being proposed for closure and the core business is being continued. Work has taken place to map and audit current service provision in children's centres across the city to establish

the range of services, who they are run by – community groups or by businesses; in addition whether the services are aimed at universal, targeted or vulnerable families and crucially the level of attendance at these services. Through this mapping exercise work is now being undertaken to ensure that those drop in services/universal services are able to continue with community/partner/volunteer support. Some of these will take place not just in children’s centre buildings but in community centres as well.

The key statutory services provided by children’s Centres will continue. This is the Child’s Journey which gives intensive support for vulnerable families, and the Parenting Track which, working closely with Health workers offers a universal service to invite families and their babies/children for the regular check ups up to 2 years of age. This enables staff to identify possible vulnerable families who may have otherwise been missed. This is part of a valuable and ongoing partnership with Health colleagues, and a partnership which is constantly being reviewed to make sure it is working well and avoiding duplication. As the service review goes forward then we will continue to work intensively with partners and voluntary groups to make sure that Children’s Centres continue to play a significant part in young children’s lives and those of their families.

(xxxix) To the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance from Cllr Doughty:

“It is noted that the new Labour group Leader has overturned the decision of his predecessor and Cabinet colleagues despite previously supporting their stance and will now ordinarily refund motorists fined under the disastrous Lendal Bridge fiasco. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm what the final total loss to the York council taxpayer will be including costs for administration of fines, refunds, signage and related operating costs?”

I’d be more than happy to supply this figure once, as your question says, all fines have been refunded and we know the final figure.

(xl) To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance from Cllr Ayre:

“What are the latest performance figures for Customer Services at West Offices listing each channel separately?”

Members can use the following link to keep a regular update on latest performance figures for the Customer Centre:

http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200167/customer_services/698/customer_service_standards/2

For the last month's performance see attached – but the above link gives the main channels and more recent data.



Monthly CS
Operational summary

(xli) To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance from Cllr Firth:

“What progress has been made with the sale of Oliver House and when can we expect it to be occupied by a new owner?”

The property has now been placed with a commercial agent, the closing date for bids is 30th January 2015. It is not possible to say at this stage exactly when a sale will be concluded but I can assure you that I'm keen the council makes progress on this building soon so that it is put to good use, one way or another.

(xlii) To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance from Cllr Waller:

“In those cases where residents report issues electronically why doesn't the Council confirm - to the person raising the issue - when any requested action has been completed?”

Currently, when a resident reports an issue electronically they will receive a reference number associated with that request. If the resident has created an on-line account with us they can view the status of all requests they have submitted to us. This also includes occasions where the resident has reported the issue by telephone or by email. Our aim is that residents are sent status alerts to show the progress of their request including when their status has been completed. We are hoping to have this facility available through the new systems being implemented from April 2015.

(xlili) To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance from Cllr Ayre:

“What progress has been made in upgrading reporting options available to residents using mobile devices so that they are at least on a par with commercial sites such as “My Council”?”

My ‘Council Services’ is a third party provider funded by advertising and sales of additional services which allows customers to make reports via an app. These are then forwarded as an e-mail to the Council. When these are received we currently manually enter them onto our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The Council also currently funds an app called Love Clean Streets which has less functionality but has far better integration to the CRM system thus reducing the level of handling time required. We are the only Council to have achieved this.

As part of developing the new website and replacing our current CRM system the Council is planning to ensure that the systems will be able to integrate with any “report it” style app which a customer chooses to use. This is planned to be in place by Spring next year and will give us a capability and a level of efficiency in handling this kind of contact which are far beyond most local authorities. As the market has developed, the need for the Council to fund a separate app will also be reviewed alongside this.

In making it easier for customers to raise issues with the Council our challenge, of course, is to respond to requests in a way that meets customers’ expectations.

(xliv) To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance from Cllr Waller:

“The 2014/15 Finance Monitor 1 report noted an overall forecast overspend for 2014/15 of £2.3 million and continued shortfall and overspends in areas such as parking income (£400k), Learning Services (£110k), the EPH Project (763k). Could the Cabinet Member update council on the overall budget position and these specific areas?”

All of this information is contained in the finance monitor report to Cabinet in December, in line with our agreed budget monitoring process. A further update will also come to the February Cabinet meeting. However, I hope councillors recognise that in-year budget pressures do happen, particularly as Government cuts hit so

significantly, but that the important thing is that the overall budget balances at year end, which it has done for every year of this Labour administration.

(xlv) To the Cabinet Member for Housing & Community Safety from Cllr Orrell:

“Could the Cabinet Member update councillors on the future plans for implementing additional Cold Calling Zones?”

Due to continued cuts to funding from the Conservative Liberal Democrat coalition government the City of York Council is currently undertaking a review of all service provision within the Public Protection service and as part of this review we are looking at how we continue to support the existing 234 Cold Calling Controlled Zones in operation in the city and the circumstances of how we will introduce new Cold Calling Controlled Zones where there is the intelligence and capacity to do so.

A number of initiatives are being considered to see how additional capacity can be delivered, potentially through sponsorship schemes to increase capacity to support important work of this nature.

Cllr Ian Gillies

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.35 pm and concluded at 9.55 pm]

This page is intentionally left blank