

Agenda Supplement
Council

To: All Members of City of York Council
Date: Thursday, 17 December 2020
Time: 6.10 pm
Venue: Remote Meeting

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 9 December 2020.
The attached additional documents are now available:

6. Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations (Pages 1 - 2)

Executive recommendations for approval, marked 'to follow' on the published agenda:

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Executive	15 December 2020	Minute 79: <i>New Stadium Leisure Complex Commercial Proposal on Restaurant Units</i> Minute 80: <i>Amendment to Council Tax Support Scheme</i>

Also attached is a list of Recommendations, Motions and Amendments (Pages 3-9)

This agenda supplement was published on 16 December 2020.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Executive
Date	15 December 2020
Present	Councillors Aspden (Chair), Ayre, Craghill, Cuthbertson, D'Agorne, Orrell, Runciman, Smalley, Waller and Widdowson
In Attendance	Councillor Myers

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

79. New Stadium Leisure Complex Commercial Proposal on Restaurant Units

[See also under Part A]

The Finance Manager and the Head of Asset & Property Management presented a report which provided an update on the Commercial Deal agreed by Executive on 19 October 2017 regarding disposal and development of land adjoining the new Community Stadium, and set out options for the way forward.

The update focused on the three Commercial Units included in the deal, which had been leased to Legal & General (L&G). The terms of the lease obliged L&G to use reasonable endeavours to secure tenants for the units, but reduced the amount payable by £1.375m should none of the units be let by completion of the build. None of the units had been let.

Three options were available, as detailed in paragraphs 18-51 of the report:

Option 1 – accept that the units are not let and £1.375m will not be received from L&G.

Option 2 – take a 25-year lease of the units from L&G, on the terms set out in exempt Annex 2.

Option 3 – accept full ownership of the units, with no further financial contribution from L&G.

Analysis of the options had identified Option 1 as the recommended option, in terms of providing the greatest financial certainty to the council and limiting future liabilities. Officers confirmed that the Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee, having considered the report at their meeting on 7 December, were broadly supportive of Option 1.

Recommended: That a further £1.375m prudential borrowing be applied to the Community Stadium project to offset the loss of commercial investment in the project.

Reason: To ensure the stadium project is fully funded at the lowest risk to council finances going forward.

80. Amendment to Council Tax Support Scheme

The Assistant Director of Customers & Digital Services presented a report which recommended an amendment to the council's Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme, following consultation on implementing a De Minimis limit in respect of any change to a CTS customer's personal income before issuing them with a revised bill.

The amendment was proposed to prevent customers from receiving multiple council tax bills resulting from the fluctuation of levels of Universal Credit with every change in income, however small. As required by law, a consultation had been carried out, via the questionnaire attached as Annex A to the report. Responses, as shown in Annex B, had been positive, with over 75% of respondents in favour of the proposals. Support would be made available through the Discretionary Council Tax Reduction scheme to those customers negatively affected by income changes within the tolerance limit.

Recommended: That Council approve an amendment to the CTS scheme to implement a De Minimis limit of £2.50 before a council tax support customer is required to receive a revised council tax bill.

Reason: To support financial inclusion and protect financially vulnerable customers from confusing and unnecessary multiple bills.

Cllr K Aspden, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.32 pm and finished at 7.12 pm].

Council Meeting – 17 December 2020**Recommendations, Motions and Amendments**Agenda Item 6 – Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations**Executive, 26 November 2020****67. Update on the Asset Management Strategy 2017-2022**

Recommended: That Council approve:

- a) the establishment of a capital budget of £3.9m, to fund the acquisition of the Head leasehold interest of the Eco Centre, Amy Johnson Way;
- b) the investment of a further £100k to fund green infrastructure improvements to the building, providing an increase in revenue funded from the One Planet York budget; and
- c) the delegation of authority to the Corporate Director of Economy & Place, in consultation with the Director of Governance, to complete the purchase once all due diligence has been satisfactorily conducted on the property.

Reasons:

- a) To establish clear principles to guide and shape future use of the council's assets and to continue to carry out a programme of proactive work to shape the commercial and operational property portfolio further.
- b) To support the ongoing economic vibrancy of the city while increasing the income from the council's commercial and operational property portfolio.

68. Capital Programme – Monitor 2, 2020/21

Recommended: That Council approve the adjustments resulting in a decrease of £36.538m, as detailed in the report and in Annex A.

Reason:

To enable the effective management and monitoring of the council's capital programme.

Executive, 15 December 2020

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Agenda Item 8 – Motions on Notice

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

(i) From Cllr Rowley

Call for 'Free after three' Parking initiative

“Now that we have come out of the second national lockdown and in recognition of a continuing significant improvement in Covid case numbers, Council believes this is the time to take all practical steps to support residents and city businesses in recovering our local economy and helping to protect jobs.

As part of this recovery, Council calls for a **‘Free after three’ car parking scheme**. After a hopefully strong run up to Christmas Council is mindful that January sees a lull but businesses cannot afford this after the last nine months. The scheme would enable **free car parking at any City of York Council car park** after 3pm each day, seven days a week in January and February 2021.

The scheme would be likely to see a fall in overall parking revenue receipts but this will actually be modest against falls suffered in lockdowns already this year. However it is not a zero sum game as the drop in revenue we now proactively enable will help save jobs, businesses and receipts like business rates. Helping subsidise this scheme through the release of £250k from the general reserves is therefore a true case of spending now to avert a worse financial loss in the future.

It is proposed that Council delegate implementation of the scheme to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Leader.”

Amendment from Cllr Ayre:

“After the first paragraph, **insert** a new second paragraph, as follows:
‘Council notes the hard work carried out by Council staff, under difficult circumstances, to accelerate the city’s economic recovery from the pandemic, including the processing of over £110 million in grant payments for local business, and the delivery of parking incentives for Council owned car parks, including via the RingGo app last summer. In addition, residents within City of York can continue to access the discounted £2 Minster Badge offer, which secures parking discounts and free parking after 6pm.’

In the second (now the third) paragraph, **delete** all after ‘Council calls for’ and **insert**:

‘further parking and sustainable travel incentive initiatives to be brought forward including specific time limited initiatives as part of the economic recovery plan. After a hopefully strong run up to Christmas, Council is mindful that January sees a lull but businesses cannot afford this after the last nine months.’

Delete the third (now the fourth) paragraph and **substitute**:

‘By identifying further incentive schemes as a part of our ongoing response to the pandemic and within the budget process, Council can continue to support the local economy through such schemes, whilst ensuring a balanced and sustainable budget is set for all Council services.’

To the end of the final paragraph, **add**:

‘the Executive Member for Finance and Performance, and the Executive Member for Transport.’”

For information the effect on the original motion of this amendment:

“Now that we have come out of the second national lockdown and in recognition of a continuing significant improvement in Covid case numbers, Council believes this is the time to take all practical steps to support residents and city businesses in recovering our local economy and helping to protect jobs.

Council notes the hard work carried out by Council staff, under difficult circumstances, to accelerate the city’s economic recovery from the pandemic, including the processing of over £110 million in grant payments for local business, and the delivery of parking incentives for Council owned car parks, including via the RingGo app last summer. In addition, residents within City of York can continue to access the discounted £2 Minster Badge offer, which secures parking discounts and free parking after 6pm.

As part of this recovery, Council calls for further parking and sustainable travel incentive initiatives to be brought forward including specific time limited initiatives as part of the economic recovery plan. After a hopefully strong run up to Christmas, Council is mindful that January sees a lull but businesses cannot afford this after the last nine months.

By identifying further incentive schemes as a part of our ongoing response to the pandemic and within the budget process, Council can continue to support the local economy through such schemes, whilst ensuring a balanced and sustainable budget is set for all Council services.

It is proposed that Council delegate implementation of this work to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Leader, the Executive Member for Finance and Performance, and the Executive Member for Transport.”

(ii) From Cllr Craghill

Finding the Sweet Spot – Carbon Reduction and Economic Prosperity

“Council notes:

- The commitment made by this Council in March 2019 to achieving zero carbon by 2030 and ongoing work on a 2030 strategy and action plan.
- The pressing need to tackle poverty and inequality in York, exacerbated by the Covid crisis and the need to create new jobs and support our local economy as part of the Covid recovery.
- The innovative work being done by local councils as diverse as Amsterdam and Cornwall to use the globally acclaimed economic model developed by Oxford academic, Kate Raworth – now widely

known as ‘Doughnut Economics’ – to make sure that all their policy decisions achieve both environmental sustainability and economic/social equity.

www.doughnuteconomics.org and
<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/climate-emergency/our-action-plan/what-is-cornwall-council-doing/decision-making-wheel/>

Council resolves

- To request officers to facilitate a wider understanding of the approach and how it can be used by arranging information sessions for elected members, relevant council officers and interested partner organisations.
- To request Executive to consider the use of the doughnut economics approach to inform the current review of the council's ‘Better Decision Making Tool’, and also in due course the potential to inform future strategy development (for example on carbon reduction, anti-poverty work and the city's Economic Strategy).”

(iii) From Cllr Hook

Stand up for Carers - Increasing Carer’s Allowance

“The pandemic has opened all our eyes to the importance of carers, whether employed in the care sector or unpaid people who care for family members.

Carers have been at the forefront of the Coronavirus pandemic response and continue to do a selfless and remarkable job in very difficult circumstances.

Despite this, the Government has overlooked these key workers and have failed to offer adequate support, and unpaid carers in particular have been left to face mounting financial and emotional pressures.

Carers UK research shows that unpaid carers in the UK have saved the state £530 million every day of the pandemic. It is time to give them the support they deserve.

Council notes:

- Caring for people’s health doesn’t stop at the hospital exit, or the GP’s surgery door, there are approximately 6.5million volunteers in the UK who look after a family member or friend who is elderly or has a disability, or a mental or physical illness.
- The financial and emotional challenges faced by unpaid carers have been made far worse by the Coronavirus pandemic.

- There are around 19,000 carers in York, but many people who provide care do not recognise themselves as a 'carer'.
- The latest government figures show that 2,351 unpaid carers in York are entitled to receive Carer's Allowance, although only 1472 currently do.
- 879 people who are entitled to Carer's Allowance do not receive it due to overlapping benefits, these are mostly older carers on low incomes.
- 900,000 full-time unpaid carers rely on Carer's Allowance at just £67.25 a week; it is the lowest benefit of its kind.
- Carer's Allowance has not been increased during the pandemic despite the pressure on carers and economic impact of Covid-19.

Council believes that more must be done to support unpaid carers, particularly as they continue to face major financial and emotional challenges working on the frontline of the response to the pandemic.

Consequently, Council resolves:

- That the Council lobby national government to increase Carer's Allowance by £1,000 a year, from its current rate of £67.25 a week to £87.25, in line with the £20 a week uplift in Universal Credit, including those who do not receive the Allowance due to overlapping benefits and with equivalent increase in Carer Premium and Carer Addition.
- To call on the Government to expand the eligibility for Carer's Allowance, by raising the earning limit from £128 a week to at least £139.52.
- To request that the Executive Members for Communities and Adult Social Care & Health bring forward a report to a decision session, to highlight the work and voluntary efforts of carers in the city, including highlighting the work of the York Carers Centre. This report should further identify what is and can be done to support carers in York.

(iv) From Cllr Webb

Developing the next generation of workers

Council believes that the Covid recession is the worst time for young people to be leaving education or training and seeking to enter the jobs market in almost 30 years.

Council notes:

- that from July to September, 16-24 year olds experienced the biggest percentage increase in rates of unemployment since the

Labour Force Survey (LFS) started collecting quarterly data in 1992 – even before the initial furlough scheme ended;

- that according to Job Centre Plus, York currently has well over 1000 16-24 year olds unemployed;
- the continued importance of food services and accommodation to a visitor economy such as York's and to the employment opportunities of young people more generally; this sector lost the highest percentage of jobs over the same quarter, with young workers worst affected;
- that since August 2019, £0.5m of unallocated council apprenticeship levy has been returned to the Treasury due to it not being spent within an imposed two year deadline.

Council believes proper plans must be developed at both the national and local levels to ensure young people in York are not consigned to years of unemployment or low paid, unstable work. Council resolves:

- To request that the Chief Operating Officer, on behalf of the council, writes to the Chancellor and Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, seeking a broadening of the Government's 'Kickstart' Scheme beyond just those young people on Universal Credit and 'at risk of long term unemployment', and further, to push for a fully funded youth guarantee of jobs, training or employment;
- To request that Executive steps up its commitment to apprenticeship training in the council to train and develop more young people, helping to avoid the requirement to send more York apprenticeship funding back to Government, and to report on its progress through bi-annual updates to either Executive or the relevant Executive Member Decision Session;
- To support establishing a joint review, convened between Economy & Place and Children, Education & Communities scrutiny committees, to develop a robust strategy for ensuring that best use is made of all available support and funding for apprenticeships, both within the council and with partners and businesses throughout the city."

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