

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT 2

Council

To: All Members of City of York Council

Date: Thursday, 21 October 2021

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Knavesmire Stand, York Racecourse

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 13 October 2021.
The attached additional document is now available:

- Revised amendment to the motion at Item 8(iv) on the agenda – York Residents' Right to Food.

This agenda supplement was published on **20 October 2021**.

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Council Meeting – 21 October 2021Agenda Item 8**Revised Amendment to Motion (iv) - York Residents' Right to Food**Amendment from Cllr Ayre

“In the first paragraph, after the first two bullet points under ‘Council notes’, insert the following bullet point:

- Throughout the Covid pandemic, the Council has provided a locally-financed boost to central Government funding schemes, in total distributing more than £800k to provide Free School Meals, more than £500k to run community hubs, including food parcel distribution, and more than £500k to enable direct grants to residents and local organisations supporting access to food across the city;”

[For information, the effect of the amendment on the above motion, with changes highlighted in bold:

“Council notes:

- Article 25 of the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: *“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food.”*
- Trussell Trust research showing that three million children nationally are at risk of hunger during the school holidays, representing a public health crisis;
- **Throughout the Covid pandemic, the Council has provided a locally-financed boost to central Government funding schemes, in total distributing more than £800k to provide Free School Meals, more than £500k to run community hubs, including food parcel distribution, and more than £500k to enable direct grants to residents and local organisations supporting access to food across the city;**
- That foodbank use has increased dramatically; according to the Trussell Trust, foodbank parcels have increased by 128% since 2015, and by 33% in the past 12 months;
- That in York, from 2020 to 2021, there was an almost 20% increase in the number of food parcels provided through the local Trussell Trust foodbank network;

- That according to Food Justice Finder, in the City of York Council area only 51% of Healthy Start vouchers are claimed, meaning £2,167.50 per week does not reach intended recipients;
- That the main drivers of food bank use are:
 - Problems with the benefits system (delays, inadequacy and reductions)
 - Challenging life experiences or ill-health
 - Lack of informal or formal support
- The informal food support York residents themselves have provided both before and during the Covid19 pandemic;
- No meaningful response or improvement to numbers experiencing food poverty in York following the Council's approved July 2018 motion to tackle food poverty;
- That the UK Government has committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which have an international and domestic commitment to ending hunger by 2030.

Council believes that:

- No one in the UK should go hungry, not least children, and
- that good, nutritious food is a right, not a privilege;
- Food justice is about taking action on the causes of hunger such as affordability and availability of good nutritious food;
- Local councils should continue to play a key role in tackling both the symptoms and the causes of food poverty postpandemic, and that their actions be informed by listening to the local communities that they serve.

Council resolves to request that all Group Leaders write to the relevant Government Ministers to request that:

- the Universal Credit £20 uplift is reinstated;
- the Free School Meal voucher holiday scheme be permanently extended without strings attached;
- the recommendations of the National Food Strategy be implemented in full.

and requests that Executive:

- Agree to allocate individual responsibility for tackling food poverty to a named Executive Member;
- Designates Local Area Coordinators as food justice champions, who will lead on tackling food poverty locally;
- Supports the setting up of a food partnership to bring together local stakeholders, including members of the community who have provided informal food banks, to develop a local food action plan to help address the causes of food poverty, which will report back to the Health Policy and Scrutiny Committee;
- Increases promotion of Healthy Start vouchers amongst eligible families in the city and agrees a 100% target for their take-up;

- Building on work throughout the pandemic, makes the focus of the Community Hubs Strategy to facilitate the setting up of 'community kitchens' in buildings such as community centres, council-run centres and school kitchens that are out of use during school holidays, so they can be used by the community to provide good quality, nutritional food for residents in need;
- Surveys informal food bank providers to get a clear picture of the amount of informal food bank use in York;
- Works to ensure the council frequently promotes the city's food poverty support website through its corporate communications:
[https://yorkfoodpoverty.org/whats happening/"\]](https://yorkfoodpoverty.org/whats happening/)

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