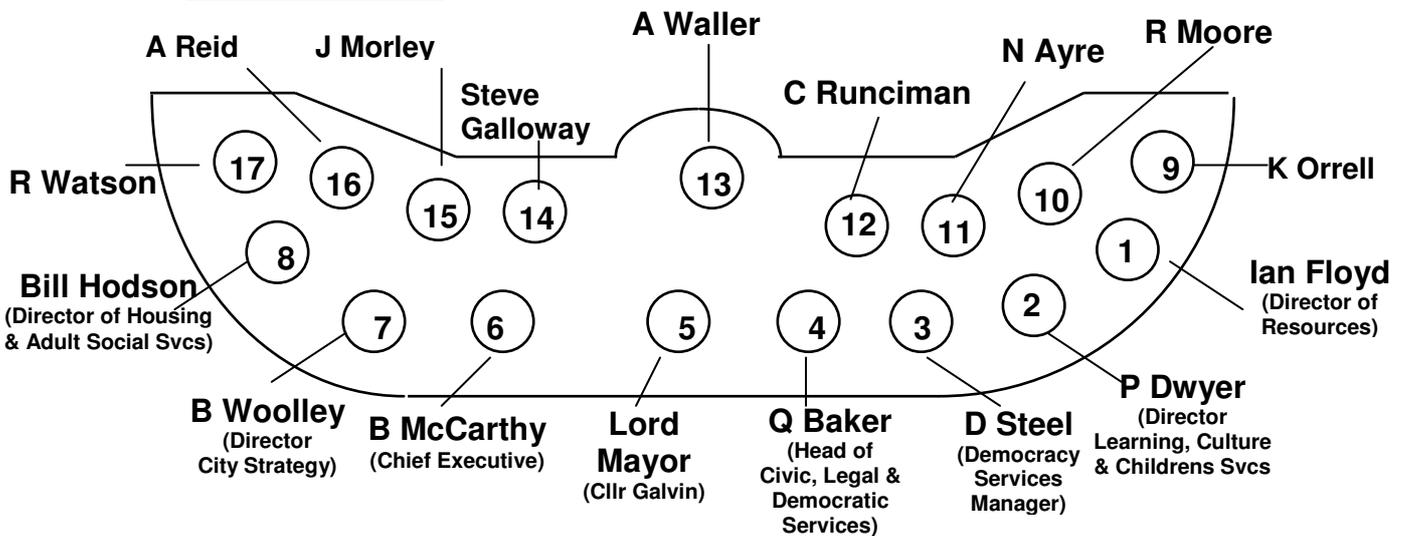
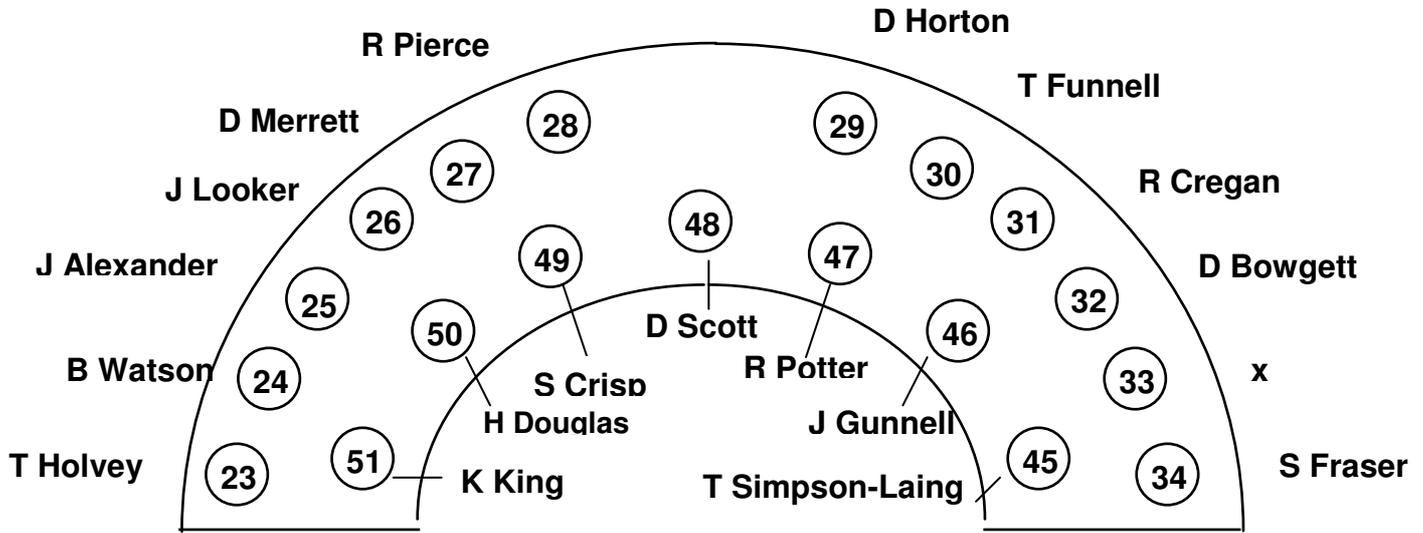


CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

All Councillors, relevant Council Officers and other interested parties and residents are formally invited to attend a meeting of the **City of York Council** at the **Guildhall, York**, to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Thursday, 9 July 2009 at 6.30 pm

COUNCIL CHAMBER



A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 34)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 2 April 2009 and the Annual Council meeting held on 21 May 2009.

3. Civic Announcements

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

4. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider excluding the press and public from the meeting during any discussion on the exempt minute relating to the Executive's recommendation on the Equal Pay Update at agenda item 7 (Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations), on the grounds that it contains information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings, which is classed as exempt under paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as revised by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

5. Public Participation

It is at this point in the meeting that members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the remit of Council may do so. Anyone who wishes to register, or requires further information, is requested to contact the Democracy Officer for this meeting. Contact details are listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Wednesday, 8 July 2009**.

6. Petitions

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

- (i) Cllr King, on behalf of residents seeking a ban on the consumption of alcohol in Clarence Gardens.
- (ii) Cllr Potter, on behalf of residents seeking a 20 mph speed limit in residential streets in York.
- (iii) Cllr Gunnell, on behalf of residents of Nunmill Street supporting the provision of a 20 mph zone along the whole length of their street.
- (iv) Cllr Fraser, on behalf of residents calling for a 20 mph speed limit in streets in the Micklegate Ward.
- (v) Cllr Simpson-Laing, on behalf of residents calling for a 20 mph speed limit in Lidgett Grove and Newlands Drive.
- (vi) Cllr Douglas, on behalf of local residents regarding bollards in Westminster Road.
- (vii) Cllr Scott, on behalf of local residents regarding lighting on Grosvenor Road.
- (viii) Cllr Bowgett, on behalf of residents of Holgate asking for the no. 5 bus to take on the route of the former no. 16 (i.e., via Stonebow).

7. Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations (Pages 35 - 48)

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

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Executive	23 June 2009	Minute 26: <i>Community Stadium – Outline Business Case</i>
Executive	7 July 2009	Minute 27: <i>Equal Pay Update</i> Minute 38: <i>Customer Strategy (to follow)</i>

8. Standards Committee

a) Annual Report (Pages 49 - 54)

To receive the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2008/09, which was approved by the Committee at its meeting on 26 June 2009.

b) Protocol on Officer / Member Relations (Pages 55 - 66)

To consider the recommendation made by the Standards Committee at their meeting on 26 June 2009 regarding a revised Protocol on Officer / Member Relations (*a copy of the revised Protocol is attached*).

9. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (Pages 67 - 70)

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

10. Report of Executive Member (Pages 71 - 76)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Corporate Services, and to question the Executive Member thereon, provided any such questions are registered in accordance with the timescales and procedures set out in Standing Order 8(2)(a).

Notice has been given of the following questions to the Executive Member:*

(i) From Cllr R Watson:

“In his report the Executive Member describes the Place Survey results as 'extremely encouraging', please could he explain why he believes this to be the case?”

(ii) From Cllr Sunderland

“Could the Executive Member please inform Council of the percentage of invoices paid by the council within 30 days?”

(iii) From Cllr Keith Orrell

“Could the Executive Member explain the impact the recession has had on the collection rate for business rates?”

- (iv) From Cllr Christian Vassie
“Following the success of the rollout of 450 'thin client' PCs as detailed in his report, could the Executive Member detail the future plans for the use of 'thin clients' in the council?”

**Note: the above questions were added to this agenda on 8 July 2009.*

11. Activities of Outside Bodies

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

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

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

- North Yorkshire Police Authority – Meeting held on 17/04/09
- Quality Bus Partnership – Meeting held on 12/03/09
- Regional Transport Forum - Meeting held on 20/03/09
- Safer York Partnership – Meeting held on 07/04/09
- Without Walls Partnership – Meeting held on 12/05/09
- York NHS Foundation Trust – Meeting held on 11/03/09
- Economic Development Partnership Board – Meeting held on 09/03/09

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

12. Appointments and Changes to Membership (Pages 77 - 78)

To consider the appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies set out on the list attached to this summons.

13. Notices of Motion

To consider the following Notices of Motion under Standing Order 11:

A – Motions referred from the Executive in accordance with Standing Order 11(a)(i)

None

B – Motions submitted for consideration directly by Council, in accordance with Standing Orders 11(a)(ii)

(i) From Cllr Morley

“Council notes that in the period 2005/06 to 2008/09 over £20m in council house rent income has been lost locally through negative subsidy under the Housing Revenue Subsidy System.

Council notes with regret that, had this money been retained in York as called for by this council in 2007, it could have been used to invest in new affordable housing to help residents in need of affordable housing and to help to protect jobs in the house building sector.

Therefore, Council resolves to support the LGA campaign calling for:

- The replacement of the current housing finance system with a new system that allows councils to retain 100% of locally-raised revenue and provides flexibility for investment in locally-determined priorities
- Support for council-led housing development to ensure that home-building continues during the recession

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to local MPs expressing the views of Council and urging them to sign EDM 1683 supporting the LGA’s campaign.”

(ii) From Cllr Crisp

“This Council asks the Executive member for Leisure, Culture & Heritage to bring forward a report that:

- Sets out a clear program of the meeting dates for the

University Swimming Pool Steering Group for the remainder of the municipal year.

- Outlines a clear and final completion date for the University Pool
- Identifies a mechanism for the closing of the reported funding gap for the University Pool

and

- Outlines the Council's strategy to provide a pool in a City Centre location if completion at the University site by 2011 is not feasible and that that strategy has a clear and timely completion date.

And that this report will be brought to the next Council meeting in October 2009."

(iii) From Cllr Gillies

"Council notes the announcement by Lord Adonis, the transport secretary, on 1st July, concerning the future of the East Coast Main Line rail franchise.

Council expresses grave concerns about the stability of jobs and must ensure it does all within its powers to protect the jobs of those currently working for National Express East Coast in the City long term, and also to represent the interests of fare paying passengers traveling to and from York.

Council therefore requests:

- That the Chief Executive requests a meeting urgently with the main party leaders, National Express, the City's MPs, trades union leaders and the Minister of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, to secure the long term future of East Coast Main jobs in York and vital rail connections to and from the City."

(iv) From Cllr Fraser

"Council condemns the lack of commitment shown by the current administration to improving community safety and tackling crime, such as domestic burglary.

Despite their Lib Dem 2003 Election manifesto pledge to

‘promote crime prevention measures, especially in the estates’, and their public support for alleygating at the time, Council notes that this Lib Dem Executive has:

- Failed to allocate resources to implement a strategic approach to implementing alleygating in vulnerable areas of the city.
- Adopted a dismissive approach to ensuring adequate staffing to support a planned programme of alleygating in areas of the city particularly susceptible to acquisitive crime.
- Failed to take steps to ensure the maintenance of alleygates where, through the efforts of local ward members and funding from ward committees and Safer York Partnership budgets (supported by funds allocated from the Home Office), gates have been installed.

Council calls on the Executive to draw up a strategy to ensure a detailed programme of properly funded alleygating schemes across the city and which ensures that once gates are installed, they are properly maintained.”

(v) From Cllr Holvey

“Council regrets the decision by Royal Mail to move some of their distribution service from the Leeman Road Sorting Office to Leeds and notes with concern the impact this will have on jobs in the City as well as the environmental damage caused by extra transportation required.

Council emphasises the importance of maintaining a sorting office in York and the retention of a YO postmark, for the protection of jobs in the City, York City’s identity in the international tourism community and to save on unnecessary transportation of mail.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to Royal Mail to express their concerns and to stress the importance of maintaining a sorting office in the City.”

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

To deal with the following questions to the Executive Leader and / or other Executive Members, in accordance with Standing Order 10(a):

- (i) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Alexander:
“Can the Executive Member for City Strategy please tell me why Council officers have said that an authorised new bus stop on Hamilton drive cost £2,000 but an authorised replacement bus stop on Hamilton Drive East only cost £85?”
- (ii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Fraser:
“Can the Executive Member for City Strategy explain the inordinate delay in ensuring that the CCTV camera installed on Bishopthorpe Road becomes operative?”
- (iii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Firth:
“Would the Executive Member comment on the latest bus usage and bus reliability performance in the City?”
- (iv) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services from Cllr Aspden:
“Can the Executive Member give an update on progress made towards using the Sustainable Communities Act to benefit York?”
- (v) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Alexander
“Can the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion describe his objectives for the coming year and how he plans to overcome problems within the portfolio area that his predecessor could not?”
- (vi) To the Executive Member for Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Horton:
“Will the new Executive Member for HASS explain to myself, my fellow Ward Councillor and the residents of Almsford Road, the cost to the Council in Officer time and

other costs, in relation to the failed attempt to bring 17 Almsford Road in to affordable housing usage?"

15. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer for this meeting:

Name: Fiona Young

Contact details:

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

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

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

Contact details are set out above.

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CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 2nd April, 2009, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr Brian Watson) 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
Holvey Reid Sunderland	D'Agorne Taylor
FULFORD WARD	GUILDHALL WARD
Aspden	Looker
HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD	HESLINGTON WARD
Firth Hogg R Watson	Jamieson-Ball
HEWORTH WARD	HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD
Blanchard Funnell Potter	Ayre
HOLGATE WARD	HULL ROAD WARD
Alexander Bowgett Crisp	Cregan Pierce

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore
Watt
Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Kirk
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Cllr Potter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the urgent motion relating to redundancies at Norwich Union (Minute 80 refers), of which notice had been given just before the meeting, as her daughter was employed by Norwich Union.

Cllr Gillies declared a personal interest in the urgent motion, as his daughter also worked at Norwich Union.

Cllr Morley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Motion no. (iv) at item 13 on the agenda, relating to the sub-division of homes (Minute 88 refers), as the owner of a property that might be sub-divided.

76. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Special and Ordinary meetings of Council held on 22 January 2009 and the Budget Council meeting held on 26 February 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of those meetings.

77. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor announced that a portrait of ex-Councillor Ken Cooper, which had been formally presented to the Council by Mr Cooper's widow, Mrs Dolly Cooper, was currently on show in the Council Chamber and would later be put on permanent display in the Mansion House.

The Lord Mayor then drew Members' attention to a plaque received from representatives of the Syrian government during their recent visit to York from Damascus and Palmyra. This was also on show in the Council Chamber.

78. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor announced that three people had registered to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. Each was invited to speak for three minutes, in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Mrs Una Dalton spoke on behalf of herself and other residents of Temple Lane, Copmanthorpe, who used the no.21 bus, in support of the petition to be presented later in the meeting by Cllr Healey. She stated that the discontinuance of this service, scheduled to take place on 24 April, would isolate elderly and infirm residents from access to the doctor, hospital, shops and other major facilities, and would compromise their independence.

Mr Mark Warters spoke in relation to the motion on the Regional Spatial Strategy and green belt land to be moved by Cllr Kirk later in the meeting. He expressed support for the motion but accused the ruling group of hypocrisy in not protecting the green belt when allowing development at Osbaldwick.

Mr Tony Bramley spoke in support of the petition to be presented later in the meeting by Cllr Vassie, seeking the installation of a traffic island on the A19 at Deighton. He explained the difficulties caused to village residents who had to cross this busy and hazardous road and pointed out that residents were asking for an illuminated traffic island, rather than the more costly solution previously rejected by Members.

79. PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented by Members under Standing Order 7:

- (i) Cllr Potter, on behalf of York residents calling for the introduction of a 20 mph blanket speed limit throughout the City in residential areas.¹
- (ii) Cllr Potter, on behalf of local residents calling for the completion of the link road between James Street and Heworth Green.²
- (iii) Cllr Potter, on behalf of local residents calling for the cancellation of plans to cut direct services from Heworth to Monks Cross and York College.³
- (iv) Cllr Vassie, on behalf of residents of Deighton calling for a traffic island to be built on the A19 in Deighton.⁴
- (v) Cllr Waller, on behalf of residents of The Reeves seeking closure of snickets in their area.⁵
- (vi) Cllr Waller, on behalf of local residents calling for measures to tackle speed on New Lane.⁶
- (vii) Cllr Healey, on behalf of residents of the Temple Lane area of Copmanthorpe calling for the continued provision of a scheduled bus service for their community.⁷

RESOLVED: That the above petitions be referred to the Executive or appropriate committee.¹⁻⁷

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate Committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep appropriate Member updated | SS |
| 2. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate Committee, schedule on Forward Plan and keep appropriate Member updated | SS |
| 3. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate Committee, | SS |

schedule on Forward Plan and keep appropriate Member updated

4. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate Committee, SS
schedule on Forward Plan and keep appropriate Member updated

5. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate Committee, SS
schedule on Forward Plan and keep appropriate Member updated

6. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate Committee, SS
schedule on Forward Plan and keep appropriate Member updated

7. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate Committee, SS
schedule on Forward Plan and keep appropriate Member updated

80. URGENT MOTION - JOB LOSSES AT NORWICH UNION

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Gillies moved that Standing Orders 12.1, 12.2, 12.4 and 12.5 be suspended to allow an urgent motion to be put to Council. Cllr D'Agorne seconded this proposal, which when put to the vote was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Scott seconded, that

“Council regrets today’s announcement from Norwich Union (soon to be Aviva) regarding job losses in York by the end of 2009.

Council invites Norwich Union (soon to be Aviva) to meet urgently with the Chief Executive, Group Leaders and Yorkshire Forward to agree plans to mitigate the impact on local communities.”¹

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

Action Required

1. Arrange meeting as agreed between NU, Chief Executive DB
and Group Leaders

81. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS - INCLUDING APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S REFRESHED CORPORATE STRATEGY

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

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

(i) From Cllr Scott:

"I welcome the Executive Leader's commitment to the 'York Means Business' campaign. Taking into account that the members of the National Union of Journalists are taking industrial action to preserve jobs at The Press in York, will the Executive Leader agree to instruct the Chief Executive not to issue press releases from this Council to The Press on days which it is known industrial action is taking place at The Press?"

The Executive Leader replied:

"The Council has an agreed protocol on publicity and media, as set out in the Constitution, which would need to be amended in order for what is being requested to happen. There is nothing to stop political parties from taking their own actions on non-issuing of press releases and comment on days when it is known that industrial action is taking place at The Press newspaper."

In response to a supplementary question asking whether he would invite all Group Leaders to confirm their agreement to such a constitutional amendment, the Executive Leader replied that this would be a matter for debate at Full Council.

(ii) From Cllr Fraser:

"Can the Executive Leader explain why he considers the acquisition of the land secured for the failed Hungate HQ project to have left the Council with a valuable asset for the future, as he was recently quoted in The Press?"

The Executive Leader replied:

"Land holdings are an asset, and having an area of land on which there is already outlying planning permission for a building of 100,000 square feet close to existing Civil Service jobs at King's Pool is of value to the future economic development of the City."

The Executive Leader then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the recommendations of the Executive contained in the minutes of the Executive meetings held on 3 February 2009 and 31 March 2009, namely:

a) Minute 178 – Minutes of Working Groups:

*"That the recommendation in Minute 32 of the Social Inclusion Working Group meeting on 14 January 2009 be approved and that the membership of the Group be increased accordingly, to include two additional non-voting co-opted Members representing the equalities disability strand."*¹

and

b) Minute 214 – The Refresh of the Corporate Strategy

“That Council approve the draft strategy, subject to the above additions.” [as agreed by the Executive and set out in the resolution].²

On being put to the vote, the above recommendations were declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the recommendations contained in Minute 178 of the Executive meeting held on 3 February 2009 and Minute 214 of the Executive meeting held on 31 March 2009 be approved.¹⁻²

Action Required

1. Amend the membership on the committee management system GR
2. Make the agreed changes to the Corporate Strategy before publication and distribution SA

82. SCRUTINY - REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A written report was received from Cllr John Galvin, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council, on 22 January 2009.

83. RE-STRUCTURE OF SCRUTINY AND DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Cllr Galvin moved, and Cllr Wiseman seconded, the following recommendations contained in a report of the Head of Civic, Legal and Democratic Services, presenting the recommendations of the Working Group tasked with making recommendations on the re-structuring of Scrutiny and the Executive Member decision making process:

- “(1) That Council authorises the Monitoring Officer to make the following necessary constitutional changes to be put into operational effect after the Annual meeting in May 2009:
- i) Public monthly individual Executive Member Decision Making Sessions held on Tuesdays (minor timetabling requirements to be agreed with Democratic Services Manager)
 - ii) A public on-line information log for ‘information only’ reports
 - iii) A Scrutiny Management Committee of 10 members on 4:4:1:1 basis, to include one Member from each of the new scrutiny committees and be set up with the functions and delegated powers agreed by Council in January 2009
 - iv) 5 scrutiny Committees of either 8 or 7 members in principle (subject to proportionality details being resolved at Annual

Council in May 2009), to be set up with the functions and delegated powers agreed by Council in January 2009

- v) external expert advisors to scrutiny from local universities (pro bono excluding expenses), subject to further investigation by the Chief Executive

- (2) Council to commission a report to Audit & Governance Committee investigating a corporate approach to handling petitions (including establishing a public on-line corporate register)."

Cllr Steve Galloway then moved, and Cllr Reid seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

"Add the following paragraph to the proposal:

- "(3) *That the Chairs of the scrutiny committees be allocated to the Groups represented on the Council broadly in proportion to their strengths (i.e. SMC Chair - Conservative. Scrutiny Committees - 2 Labour Chairs, 2 LibDem Chairs and 1 Green Chair) Detailed allocation of the scrutiny committee chairs to be subject to further discussion between the Groups prior to the Council's Annual Meeting.*"

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

Cllr Scott then moved, and Cllr Potter, seconded, the following amendment to the above motion:

"In paragraph (1), sub-paragraph iii., delete '10' and substitute '8' and delete '4:4:1:1' and substitute '3:3:1:1'.

Insert an additional sub-paragraph, as follows:

- 'vi. *That the Chairs of all Scrutiny Committees must be from members of main Opposition parties and in a proportion to be agreed between the parties.*"

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

- "(1) *That Council authorises the Monitoring Officer to make the following necessary constitutional changes to be put into operational effect after the Annual meeting in May 2009:*¹

- i) *Public monthly individual Executive Member Decision Making Sessions held on Tuesdays (minor timetabling requirements to be agreed with Democratic Services Manager)*
- ii) *A public on-line information log for 'information only' reports*
- iii) *A Scrutiny Management Committee of 8 members on 3:3:1:1 basis, to include one Member from each of the new scrutiny committees and be set up with the functions and delegated powers agreed by Council in January 2009*

- iv) *5 scrutiny Committees of either 8 or 7 members in principle (subject to proportionality details being resolved at Annual Council in May 2009), to be set up with the functions and delegated powers agreed by Council in January 2009*
 - v) *external expert advisors to scrutiny from local universities (pro bono excluding expenses), subject to further investigation by the Chief Executive*
 - vi) *That the Chairs of all Scrutiny Committees must be from members of main Opposition parties and in a proportion to be agreed between the parties*
- (2) *Council to commission a report to Audit & Governance Committee investigating a corporate approach to handling petitions (including establishing a public on-line corporate register).”²*

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations, as amended, be approved.¹⁻²

Action Required

- 1. Make the agreed changes to the Constitution GR
- 2. Prepare report for Audit & Governance Committee GR

84. ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP

Cllr Waller moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, the following recommendations contained in a report of the Head of Civic, Legal and Democratic Services, at page 61 of the Council papers, concerning the establishment of a Member Development Steering Group:

- “(i) Council establishes on its structure a Member Development Steering Group on a 1:1:1 basis and appoints to it those nominees received from Party Groups.
- (ii) Council approves the terms of reference for the Group annexed to this report.”

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

RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved.¹

Action Required

- 1. Add Member Development Steering Group to the structure on the committee management system GR

85. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

A written report was received from Cllr Runciman, the Executive Member for Learning and Children's Services.

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

(i) From Cllr Waudby:

"I understand that York's Children and Young People's Plan was launched yesterday; can the Executive Member for Children and Young People explain to Council what will happen to it next and how it will improve the lives of children and young people in the City?"

The Executive Member replied:

"The City of York Children and Young People's Plan is the product of widespread consultation, analysis and debate. It summarises in a very user friendly format the issues which matter for the children of York and it will be used to ensure that all our partner agencies are working towards achieving the key improvement priorities that the plan describes. The YorOK Board will receive regular monitoring reports on their 'scorecard' of issues that matter most from the plan. The YorOK Board is well placed to ensure that action is taken across partners when progress is not being made.

Everyone will be working together to improve the lives of York's children and to ensure all agencies make a difference to outcomes for our children and young people."

(ii) From Cllr Merrett:

"With regard to the new Children & Young People's Plan, and her comments about the Looked after children audit, would the Executive Member for Children Services accept that the reduced target N101 (s) of only 1 in 15 and only 1 in 10 children in care achieving 5 A* - C GCSE's (or equivalent) including English & maths at KS4 for the next two years, against 2 out of 13 this year, indicates a failure of both ambition and delivery of learning by the Council for the children we are corporate parents to, and will she agree that we should be setting an ambitious improving target for this?"

The Executive Member replied:

"The education of our looked after children has never been a greater priority. The figures quoted are simply based on a national requirement to track the expected outcomes of children already in the looked after system, as provided by the Fisher Family Trust. Our aspirations for the looked after population are so much greater than that and as the excellent new Children and Young People's Plan says, 'we aspire for every child and young person in York to have the chance to reach their full potential and live their dreams. We will stretch the most able, support those who start at a disadvantage and protect and nurture the most vulnerable.'

However, it is important to recognise that, for many young people, looked after children included, the government's measure of success as 5 A to Cs is not appropriate – their achievements in vocational and applied learning need to be acknowledged. In addition, as I know from my own discussions with those involved, no child should be written off just because they do not achieve 5A* to C at 16 – many gain qualifications as they get older and go on to successful careers as a result.”*

In response to a supplementary question from Cllr Merrett, asking why no target had been set for other qualifications, as discussed at the Executive Member and Advisory Panel meeting, the Executive Member replied that, although she agreed that other qualifications were equally important, the Council had to work towards the targets set by government.

(iii) From Cllr Merrett:

“With regard to the Executive Member for Children Services comments on safeguarding, what are her reactions to the Laming report, and is she that the City of York's systems, including the CAF arrangements, and child social work staffing levels, would prevent major failures such as have recently been highlighted in a number of other authorities?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The Laming report highlights that the changes he proposed following his enquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié are still the right direction of travel. His latest report justifiably challenges the consistency of full implementation of his recommendations.

In York he would find much to be reassured about - as previous inspection and assessments have consistently demonstrated. One can never say that child deaths will be fully prevented – York is faced with the same challenges all authorities face – but what we can say is that we have the systems and quality of staff in place which reduce the likelihood of such sad events occurring in this city.”

(iv) From Cllr Aspden:

“Can the Executive Member of Children and Young People give Council an update on the number of exclusions from schools in the City and why has a fall taken place?”

The Executive Member replied:

“We have seen a very positive reduction in the exclusion figures of children from our schools. There has been a 50% reduction in use of exclusions. Secondary fixed term exclusions have halved, from 434 to 213, compared with the same period last year with only 1 permanent exclusion compared with 12 for the same term. It is a similar picture in Primary Schools, with fixed term reducing from 79 to 40 and no permanent exclusions.

This has been achieved by a considerable amount of hard work between schools and our specialist support services to ensure that as far as possible children receive sanctions within their mainstream school rather than be excluded from that school.”

- (v) From Cllr Fraser:
“With regard to Early Intervention, and the YorOK partnership, does the Executive Member for Children Services agree with the recommendation that there should be general practitioner representation on the trust, and is she satisfied that general practitioners are adequately involved and engaged in early intervention and prevention work?”

The Executive Member replied:

“GPs can and do play an incredibly important role in ensuring that universal provision for children and young people responds positively to individual need. I agree that to date the ability to engage representation of GPs on the YorOK Board has been unsuccessful but we still remain keen to find with the support of the PCT mechanisms to address this.”

- (vi) From Cllr Orrell:
“How many schools in York have been awarded outstanding grades by OFSTED and how does this distribution compare to the national distribution?”

The Executive Member replied:

“We now have 13 of our schools judged outstanding which is approximately 20% of local schools and the highest ever number and percentage in the city. This compares with around 14% of school judged as outstanding nationally. All schools and their staff teams deserve our congratulations for the hard work that has gone into attaining such high standards, and the contributions of the central teams that support them is also a very significant factor in this achievement.”

- (vii) From Cllr Merrett:
“With regard to her comments regarding the new school build programme, would the Executive Member for Children Services confirm how much of this programme has been funded by the Government and how much from local funds, and would she also indicate the cumulative capital investment in York schools since 1997 as against 1979 – 1997?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The current approved Children’s Services capital programme covering the years 2008/09 to 2010/11 totals £85.3m. Of this total, £75.8m is expected to be funded by central government and £9.5m from local funds.

From 1997/98 to 2010/11 the cumulative capital investment in Children’s Services in York is estimated at £163.4m. As the City of York unitary authority only came in to existence in April 1996 we do not hold details for the level of investment prior to this date. However, I can tell you that in 1996/97 annual capital investment in Children’s Services in York totalled £1.4m and this compares to an annual figure of £33.8m for 2008/09.”

In response to a supplementary question from Cllr Merrett, asking whether she agreed that those figures demonstrated the Labour government's commitment to investment, as compared to that of the previous Conservative government, the Executive Member replied that extra funding was always welcome. However, it did not always guarantee success and in fact much of the success achieved was due to the local Liberal Democrat administration.

(viii) From Cllr R Watson:

"I understand the Executive Member met with the Chief Executive of the Schools' Food Trust earlier this week. Could the Executive Member please give Council an update on how the meeting went and how the Schools' Fund Trust plan to work with local schools in the future?"

The Executive Member replied:

"The meeting went well and the Chief Executive of the School Food Trust was pleased to hear that meals in York schools already reach the required nutritional standards. She met the head teachers of the two federated schools that are about to be rebuilt to talk to them about the space and facilities needed to provide hot meals and good food service in modern schools. We discussed the need for "real" cooking and how to overcome heavily promoted advertising about non health food options. The new schools will need to have equipment that cooks like to use and which works well and the visit has helped to guide our thinking on this subject. She praised the use of the Danesgate kitchens for Food Excellence and Skills Training which has enabled staff to achieve appropriate qualifications."

(ix) From Cllr Alexander:

"With regard to her comments regarding consulting young people, would the Executive Member for Children Services advise where the much hoped for central My Place scheme & stage 2 bid has got to, and how children and young people are continuing to be involved in its progression?"

The Executive Member replied:

"Work to prepare for the submission of a "round 2" myplace bid is continuing. The government's timetable for submitting such bids appears to have slipped from the original published date of "spring 2009" to a new date of "later this year". This has us enabled us to continue discussions about an ambitious scheme based around the Railway Institute buildings, as well as to explore other options. We also continue to benefit from the services of Mr Phil Bixby, a local community architect, who has held a number of consultation meetings with young people to ensure their involvement and commitment, including the possibility of establishing a short-term city centre youth cafe as an interim step."

The time limit on this item having expired, Members agreed to receive written responses to the remaining questions, which are reproduced below together with the written replies:

(x) From Cllr Alexander:

“With regard to School's Councils and the schools conference, would the Executive Member for Children Services advise how she is responding to the request for a Youth parliament?”

Reply:

“The new Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012 published yesterday includes a firm commitment to establish a Youth Council in York linked to involvement with the UK Youth Parliament. A number of possible options for achieving this were discussed at the last Young People's Working Group, and work is continuing to refine these possibilities and to identify the resources necessary to support them. I will bring forward more definite proposals in the near future.”

(xi) From Cllr Funnell:

“With regard to her comments regarding healthy schools school meals, would the Executive Member for Children Services indicate the current take up of school meals in primaries and secondaries compared to five years ago?”

Reply:

“In the period 2004/5 to 2008/09 take-up of school meals fell from 32.7% to 31.3% in primary schools and from 30.4% to 27.7% in secondary schools.

We are currently undertaking a marketing pilot sponsored by the School Food Trust which, although only half way through its 19 week timetable is showing a higher uptake of approx 5% overall in both. The pilot began in February and runs until April. Full findings will be published by School Food Trust in July.”

(xii) From Cllr Looker:

“With regard to the Joseph Rowntree school, would the Executive Member for Children Services advise where the original proposal for a windmill to help power the school and to achieve the BREAAAM excellent rating has got to?”

Reply:

“The installation of a wind turbine on the Joseph Rowntree School site was considered in the early stages of the project. This was omitted due to lack of funding and with advice from the Planning Department to submit a separate planning application at the end of the school building project for the wind turbine. If funding is available at the end of the project it will be a priority of the Project Board to use it to fund and invest in green technology, such as a wind turbine.

The Project Board feel that this will be a way of moving closer towards achieving a carbon neutral school. A feasibility study has been commissioned to establish the costs and benefits for the installation of a wind turbine, and the best position on the school site.

The BREEAM rating for the project will be "very good" although there are benefits for all to achieve a higher rating if possible."

86. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority - Meeting on 11 February 2009
- Police Authority - Meetings on 8 December 2008 and 9 February 2009
- Without Walls Partnership - Meeting on 19 February 2009
- Yorkshire and the Humber Assembly - Meeting on 12 February 2008

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

87. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that the appointments to the Golden Triangle Partnership Board would be removed from the list, as they did not require the approval of Council.

RESOLVED: That the appointments and changes to membership of committees, working groups, partnership and outside bodies set out on the revised list circulated around the Council Chamber (and attached as an Annex to these minutes) be approved. ¹

Action Required

1. Make the agreed changes to the membership record GR

88. NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Regional Spatial Strategy

A notice of motion had been submitted by Cllr Kirk in the following terms:

"Council views with concern the recent government advice to the Yorkshire and Humber Region that there should be a further increase in land allocations for house building over the next 20 years. Council reasserts its view that even the current Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) assumption (providing for 850 additional homes per year) will be difficult to achieve without having an adverse impact on the City's setting, its built and natural environment, and that these numbers will place even further pressures on the City's transport, education, health and leisure infrastructure.

Council therefore advises the Executive to endorse the recommendations of the Local Development Framework Working Group to defend land previously identified as draft green belt from the option of building thousands of new homes in the period up to 2030.”

Cllr Kirk now sought leave to alter the above motion, to read as follows:

“Council views with concern the recent government advice to the Yorkshire and Humber Region that there should be a further increase in land allocations for house building over the next 20 years. Council reasserts its view that even the current Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) assumption (providing for 850 additional homes per year) will be difficult to achieve without having an adverse impact on the City's setting, its built and natural environment, and that these numbers will place even further pressures on the City's transport, education, health and leisure infrastructure.

Council therefore advises the Executive to **take account of** the recommendations of the Local Development Framework Working Group to defend land previously identified as draft green belt from the option of building thousands of new homes in the period up to 2030.”¹

Council having agreed to that alteration, Cllr Kirk moved, and Cllr Orrell seconded, the motion as altered.

Cllr Potter then moved, and Cllr Merrett seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“In the first paragraph:

- delete the words *‘views with concern’* in the first sentence and substitute *‘notes’*
- delete the whole of the second sentence and substitute *‘This is welcomed in the City of York Council area due to the Fordhams Strategic Housing Market Assessment formal calculation of housing need which shows an overall need for 1,218 new affordable dwellings per annum.’*

In the second paragraph:

- delete the words *‘to endorse’* in the first line and substitute *‘that’*
- delete all after *‘Local Development Framework Working Group to’* and insert *‘deem possible sites in the draft green belt as unsuitable for housing is premature as it prevents a fully informed debate by York Residents on all of the options available to the Council that could meet the future housing needs of York people.’*”

In accordance with Standing Order 15.2.1, a named vote of those Members present was requested and put on the above amendment, with the following result:

For	Against	Abstained
Cllr Alexander	Cllr Aspden	
Cllr Blanchard	Cllr Ayre	
Cllr Bowgett	Cllr Brooks	
Cllr Cregan	Cllr D'Agorne	
Cllr Crisp	Cllr Firth	
Cllr Douglas	Cllr Sue Galloway	
Cllr Fraser	Cllr Steve Galloway	
Cllr Funnell	Cllr Galvin	
Cllr Gunnell	Cllr Gillies	
Cllr Horton	Cllr Healey	
Cllr King	Cllr Hogg	
Cllr Looker	Cllr Holvey	
Cllr Merrett	Cllr Hudson	
Cllr Pierce	Cllr Hyman	
Cllr Potter	Cllr Jamieson-Ball	
Cllr Scott	Cllr Kirk	
Cllr Simpson-Laing	Cllr Moore	
Cllr B Watson (Lord Mayor)	Cllr Morley	
	Cllr Orrell	
	Cllr Reid	
	Cllr Runciman	
	Cllr Sunderland	
	Cllr Taylor	
	Cllr Vassie	
	Cllr Waller	
	Cllr R Watson	
	Cllr Watt	
	Cllr Waudby	
	Cllr Wiseman	
18	29	0

In accordance with this vote, the amendment was declared LOST.

A named vote was then requested and put on the original (altered) motion, with the following result:

For	Against	Abstained
Cllr Aspden	Cllr Alexander	Cllr D'Agorne
Cllr Ayre	Cllr Blanchard	
Cllr Brooks	Cllr Bowgett	
Cllr Firth	Cllr Cregan	
Cllr Sue Galloway	Cllr Crisp	
Cllr Steve Galloway	Cllr Douglas	
Cllr Galvin	Cllr Fraser	
Cllr Gillies	Cllr Funnell	
Cllr Healey	Cllr Gunnell	
Cllr Hogg	Cllr Horton	
Cllr Holvey	Cllr King	

Cllr Hudson	Cllr Looker	
Cllr Hyman	Cllr Merrett	
Cllr Jamieson-Ball	Cllr Pierce	
Cllr Kirk	Cllr Potter	
Cllr Moore	Cllr Scott	
Cllr Morley	Cllr Simpson-Laing	
Cllr Orrell	Cllr Taylor	
Cllr Reid	Cllr B Watson (Lord Mayor)	
Cllr Runciman		
Cllr Sunderland		
Cllr Vassie		
Cllr Waller		
Cllr R Watson		
Cllr Watt		
Cllr Waudby		
Cllr Wiseman		
27	19	1

In accordance with this vote, the motion was declared CARRIED and it was

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

(ii) Local Bus Fares and Services

A notice of motion had been submitted by Cllr Kirk in the following terms:

“This Council notes:

- that the cost of First York bus fares has increased 8 times over the past 6 years;
- that the cost of tickets has increased over this period between 25% and 100%;
- that increased prices are a major factor in the decrease in the number of paying passengers;
- that there is an inconsistency of bus services in rural areas;
- with great regret the recent announced bus service cuts.

Council requests the City of York Council’s Executive to make an application to take up the available powers to impose a Quality Contract scheme as set out in Section 124 of the Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, with a view to exercising control over the maximum fares, frequency and timing of local bus services with a view to addressing the above problems and achieving a more satisfactory and effective local public transport service.”

Cllr Alexander now sought leave to alter the above motion to read as follows:

“This Council notes:

- that the cost of First York bus fares has increased 8 times over the past 6 years;
- that the cost of tickets has increased over this period between 25% and 100%;
- that increased prices are a major factor in the decrease in the number of paying passengers;
- that there is an inconsistency of bus services in rural areas;
- with great regret the recent announced bus service cuts.

Council requests the City of York Council’s Executive to make an application to take up the available powers to impose a Quality Contract scheme as set out in Section 124 of the Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, with a view to exercising control over the maximum fares, frequency and timing of local bus services with a view to addressing the above problems and achieving a more satisfactory and effective local public transport service.²

The City of York Council also requests that the Chief Executive makes a submission to the Office of Fair Trading market study regarding the experience in York of the extent of competition that currently exists between bus operators, the impact this has on fares, falling standards and subsidies by the Council to bus operators.”³

Council having consented to that alteration, Cllr Alexander then moved, and Cllr Potter seconded, the motion as altered.

Cllr Holvey then moved, and Cllr Vassie seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“Delete all from “Council requests” in the second paragraph to the end of the motion and insert:

‘Council notes with regret the recent threat to several evening bus services in the City, and endorses the successful action initiated by the Executive Member for City Strategy in finding alternatives to the proposed cuts.

Council looks forward to the time when government will return to Local Authorities powers which will allow them to have real influence on bus fares, routings, and frequencies for the benefit of residents.

In the meantime, Council invites the Executive to consider the powers, including any contained in the Transport Act 2008, which might allow the Authority to successfully resist any further reduction in the public transport system in the City.’”

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

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as altered, be approved.²⁻³

The guillotine fell at 10:00 pm. All the remaining business requiring a vote was moved, seconded and voted upon without debate.

(iii) Traffic Arrangements at York Railway Station

It was moved by Cllr Wiseman and seconded by Cllr Brooks that:

“Council believes that the traffic layout, signposting and related infrastructure at York Railway Station concerning the entrance/exit to the short-stay car park, the gyratory known as ‘Tearoom Square’, and the entrance/exit onto Station Road are confused, congested and therefore cause difficulties for all road-users attempting to negotiate this area. The Council moves to request the Executive to investigate in detail the issues related to his area, with a view to improving the access and traffic flow in and out of this part of the station.”⁴

Cllr D’Agorne then moved, and Cllr Taylor seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“After the first sentence, insert: *‘Council further notes that proposals to close off pedestrian access from the short stay car park to the railway platform (as part of the station barrier scheme will increase pedestrian flows through Tea Room Square and could increase ‘dropping off’ vehicle manoeuvres in Tea Room Square, adding to congestion.’*”

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

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.⁴

(iv) Sub-Division and Amalgamation of Homes

It was moved by Cllr Simpson-Laing and seconded by Cllr Pierce that:

“This Council believes that the both the sub-division and amalgamation of homes should be regulated to reduce the harm they can cause to the City's housing stock and neighbouring residents.

This Council believes that the sub-division of homes should be stopped due to its detrimental effect on the City's housing stock. Council calls upon the Director of City Strategy to bring forward a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on the ‘Sub - Division of Terraced and Semi Detached’ properties in the City of York Council area.⁵

The SPD should address:

- the impact sub-division has on starter and family homes in the City, including their supply and affordability

- the housing needs of the City as set out in the 2007 City of York Council Strategic Housing Market Assessment and
- should clearly state minimum floor space, as practiced in a number of other Local Authorities..

The drafting of the SPD should take place as a matter of urgency so that it can be adopted during September 2009.

Council also requests that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary for State to request that Government brings under planning control the conversion of two dwelling houses into one as the longstanding exemption contributes to the loss of 'more affordable' terraced houses particularly in conservation areas and York's rural fringe."⁶

Cllr Reid then moved, and Cllr Moore seconded, the following amendment to the above motion:

"In the second paragraph:

- delete *'stopped due to its detrimental effect on'* and substitute *'reviewed to determine the effect on'*
- delete *'Sub-division of Terraced and Semi Detached'* and substitute *'all types of residential'.*"

In the third paragraph:

- delete the third bullet point and substitute *'should clearly state the need for minimum floor space standards, as practiced in a number of other Local Authorities'*
- delete *'September 2009'* and substitute *'autumn 2009 following the appropriate consultation.'*"

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

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.⁵⁻⁶

(v) Local Bus Services

Leave was sought and granted to withdraw the notice of motion submitted by Cllr Holvey in relation to local bus services.

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Ensure that Council's decision is referred to in the report to Executive on this issue | SS |
| 2. Bring report to Executive seeking authority to make a formal application under s124, Transport Act | SS |
| 3. Write to the Office of Fair Trading in those terms | DB |
| 4. Bring report to Executive seeking authority to investigate these issues | SS |
| 5. Prepare an SPD as agreed , with a view to adoption in September 2009 | SS |
| 6. Write to the Secretary of State in those terms | DB |

89. QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.3

Six questions had been submitted to the Executive Leader and Executive Members under Standing Order 11.3. The guillotine having fallen, Members agreed to receive written responses to these questions. The questions and the written responses are set out below:

- (i) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Watt
“Following last year's petition from the residents seeking council action to address Anti-Social Behaviour in the Rawcliffe Grange area, a Safer York Partnership Multi-Agency Working Group (WG) was convened to address the concerns raised by the petition. The Executive Leader is requested to advise the Council:
a) which of the WG's recommendations have been implemented;
b) which WG recommendations is it intended to implement;
c) which of the recommendations the Executive does not intend to follow up and why each of these recommendations is not being pursued?”

Reply:

The working group has implemented the extension of an Alcohol Exclusion Zone. SYP have funded three months targeted detached youth work to engage with the young people in the area. Neighbourhood policing patrols were increased and action taken where possible. Target hardening funds for 50% of the value of a range of physical works was allocated to the area.

The erection of two kissing gates to the access paths to prevent motorcycle access, and raised height fencing to the play areas with a lockable gate to the play park to prevent youths gathering at night, are yet to be implemented. Such works are subject to funding being obtained and consent from the land owners.

There are no further recommendations to implement other than those already outlined above, which as I have already said, are subject to funding and land owner consent.

- (ii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Holvey
“Local democracy is helped by a local press, and York benefits from two local newspapers and two locally based radio stations. However, across the country local media outlets are suffering from budget pressures, job losses and other reductions in capacity which are also affecting the City of York. Would the Leader agree that a properly funded and staffed local run newspaper, like "The Press" is vital to local democracy?”

Reply:

There is no doubt that Local news is going through a difficult time, advertising revenues are falling and the recession is hitting hard resulting in significant job losses. I recognise the importance of local

journalism and the commitment of 'The Press's staff and NUJ to maintain a newspaper in the City. I have met with the management earlier in the year to discuss the situation and recognise the pressure that they are under from the American parent company owners.

Many residents rely on the local newspaper for local news, to hear about local events, and to keep connected as a community. The local paper is a vital source of information and a key link to the local area.

Even politicians who have been at times been exasperated by some of the articles written by the newspaper recognise the broader view that local newspapers play a vital role in scrutinising and reporting the work of the council and local elected representatives, holding public authorities to account and campaigning on behalf of local residents, all of which, in a time of economic uncertainty, are more important than ever."

- (iii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Sunderland
What action has been taken to safeguard the evening bus services which First plan to cut with effect from the end of April?"

Reply:

"Discussions took place immediately and I am happy to confirm that:

(i) *The number 10 evening bus service from Poppleton to Stamford Bridge via Acomb and Dunnington will be taken over by Pullman as a, self funding, commercial service.*

(ii) *The number 13 evening service will be supplemented by the diversion of the Coastliner number 843 service into Copmanthorpe. This will also be at no cost to the Council*

.At the time of writing negotiations are still taking place regarding the future of the evening number 12 service which links the City Centre to Haxby. I am confident that we will be able to sustain the service although in this case the replacement may be subject to tender and possible subsidy."

- (iv) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Firth
"What opportunities will residents have to influence the LDF core strategy and land allocations over the next few months?"

Reply:

"Subject to Member approval, the Preferred Options draft of the Core Strategy should be available for public consultation in late May. Consultation will run for at least 6 weeks.

In addition we are currently working on a site specific development plan document (the Allocations DPD) this is likely to be available for public consultation in the Autumn. I have agreed that consultation on this important document will involve a door to door distribution of consultation information."

- (v) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Morley
"Can the Executive Member give Council an update on the performance of the City's libraries?"

Reply:

“The last year has been a really successful one for York library service. We have more people using our services - engaging with thousands of children and adults across the city. Key points include:

- National year of reading our campaign was the most successful in the country, as we achieved the biggest increase in people joining up to the library: during the NYR (April to Dec 08) we signed up 14,453 people, which was a increase of 57% on the same period in the previous year. We now plan to work hard to ensure these new members become regular library users.*
- Explore Acomb library learning centre visits have more than doubled - average daily visits up from 180 to 435 and still growing; in it's first year we signed up 2,600 new members (diverse ages and backgrounds - postcode mapping); we've saved 20.7 tonnes of carbon by using 26 tonnes of wood pellets (saving equivalent to 16 return flights to New York)*
- Explore New Earswick library learning centre both issues and visits are now up by 50% on the old library (and still growing as word spreads)*
- Summer reading challenge we signed up 3,527 children which was equivalent to 1 in 5 children in York*
- Big city read - we gave away 2,200 copies of The Railway Children and created a real buzz around reading in the city. Our work has been recognised as good practice nationally and we have had lots of requests on how we did it. Our plans for this summer's big city read are even more ambitious.*
- We have moved from 63rd nationally in 03/04 for issues at our busiest library to 18th in 07/08 - demonstrating real improvement over the last 5 years. The biggest increase can be seen in adult fiction paperbacks and children's books*
- The smart meter library scheme is proving a huge success with 600 people having borrowed smart meters between the start of January and the end of February, and 150 people still on the waiting list. Over 20 local authorities have approached the council with a view to copying this initiative, among them South Gloucestershire County Council and Bristol City Council who have both formally decided to launch smart meter lending schemes of their own.*

We plan to continue and build on that improvement in the 3 years - achieving 1 million visitors at our new York explore library learning centre.”

(vi) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Jamieson-Ball

“Could the Executive Member tell Council what action has been taken to ensure activities at Elvington Airfield have minimal impact on local residents?”

Reply:

“When the MoD sold Elvington Airfield in 2000, the new owners were made aware that planning permission would be required for any outdoor sports and recreation uses that occurred for more than 28 days

per year. Despite this the new owners soon introduced Formula 1 testing and other noisy motor sports events, without planning permission or consulting City of York Council (CYC) or local residents. The council's environmental protection unit (EPU) tried unsuccessfully to work with the new owners.

In response to complaints from local residents, EPU monitored the noise and found that there was a statutory noise nuisance due to the cumulative, total noise impact of Formula 1 and other motor sports and the frequency of all of these events.

A simple noise abatement notice was served in March 2005, together with advice to stop Formula 1 testing, reduce the number of other noisy events and notify residents when these would happen and also provide respite to local residents. The airfield owners appealed against the notice but admitted at the appeal that a statutory noise nuisance existed. The judge varied the notice to restrict Formula 1 to 10 days a year, to restrict other activities and to provide 2 quiet weekends a month.

The airfield owners not only appealed this decision but also intensified the use of the airfield and the noise nuisance to local residents, increasing Formula 1 testing to 21 occasions in 2007. The second appeal was heard at York Crown Court in May 2008 and was dismissed.

The judge said residents should have a period of respite from noise as had endured noise for so long. He banned any Formula 1 testing as even a single event could be a statutory nuisance and also said there should be at least 2 quiet weekends per month and that other noisy activities should be reduced.

100% of the council's costs of £127,000 were awarded to the council, together with 75% of our costs from the previous appeal.

In July 2008 Elvington Airfield appealed the judge's decision and asked to state their case before the High Court. The case will be heard at Leeds Combined Court later this year.

Our Environmental Protection Unit has been very proactive and have supported residents in their concerns about excessive noise and the Courts have so far supported the view that there is a statutory noise nuisance. EPU continue to respond to complaints from the public and monitor noise from events at the airfield.

The owners of the airfield have been informed that the abatement notice is in force (pending the outcome of their High Court Appeal) and that any breach of the notice may result in a prosecution."

Cllr Brian Watson

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.07 pm]

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CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 21st May, 2009, starting at 11.00 am

Present: The Lord Mayor, Councillor Brian Watson, in the Chair during the first part of the meeting, the Lord Mayor, Councillor John Galvin in the Chair during the second part of the meeting, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

Horton
Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD**CLIFTON WARD**

Douglas
King
Scott

DERWENT WARD

Brooks

DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD

Holvey
Reid
Sunderland

FISHERGATE WARD

D'Agorne
Taylor

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Firth
Hogg
R Watson

HESLINGTON WARD**HEWORTH WARD**

Blanchard
Funnell
Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Bowgett
Crisp

HULL ROAD WARD

Cregan
Pierce

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore
Watt
Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Kirk
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

Also in attendance: Honorary Aldermen J. Archer, B. Bell, Mrs. M. Bwye, R Carr, C. Hall, R Pulleyn, C. Waite and K. Wood

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jamieson-Ball and Merrett

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Members were invited to declare at this point any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared.

APPOINTMENT OF LORD MAYOR

2. Councillor Watt moved, Councillor Looker seconded and the Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor John Galvin of 8 Bridge Road, Bishopthorpe be elected Lord Mayor of the City of York for the ensuing municipal year.

QUALIFICATION OF LORD MAYOR

3. Councillor John Galvin signified Acceptance of the Office of Lord Mayor of the City of York, subscribed the Declaration of such acceptance and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by law in that behalf.

APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFF

4. Councillor Brooks moved, Councillor Funnell seconded and the Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That Mrs Jill Burnett of Howe Hill View, Howe Hill Close, Holgate be appointed Sheriff of the City of York for the ensuing municipal year.

QUALIFICATION OF SHERIFF

5. Mrs Jill Burnett made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Sheriff for the City of York and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by law in that behalf.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

6. The Lord Mayor moved, Councillor King seconded and the Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Brian Watson of 97 Beckfield Lane, Acomb be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

QUALIFICATION OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

7. Councillor Brian Watson made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Lord Mayor for the City of York and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by law.

LORD MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

8. The Lord Mayor advised Council that he had appointed Revd. Chris Coates to serve as his Chaplain during his year of office.

UNDER-SHERIFF

9. The Sheriff advised Council that she had appointed Mrs Barbara Jacobs to serve as Under-Sheriff during her year of office.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING LORD MAYOR AND LADY MAYORESS

10. Councillor Horton moved, Councillor Waller seconded and Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for their services to the City during the past municipal year.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING SHERIFF AND SHERIFF'S LADY

11. Councillor Crisp moved, Councillor Taylor seconded and Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Sheriff and Sheriff's Lady for their services to the City during the past municipal year.

FORMAL BUSINESS OF COUNCIL - ALLOCATION TO SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE, COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES 2009/2010

12. Cllr Waller moved, and Cllr Scott seconded, the appointment of an Executive, Leader and Executive Members, together with the allocation of, and nomination to, places on Committees, partnerships and outside bodies, as set out in Annexes B and C to Item 5 on the Council agenda and the amendments sheet circulated around the Council Chamber.*

Nominations to Executive and Shadow Executive

The Lord Mayor then announced that two options had been received for nominations to the Executive and Shadow Executive in addition to those nominations received for Committees, partnerships and outside bodies set out in the annexes to item 5 and the amendments sheet. Option 1 comprised a Liberal Democrat Executive and a Labour Shadow Executive, while Option 2 comprised a Labour Executive and a Liberal Democrat Shadow Executive.

A named vote was taken on each of these options, as follows:

For Option 1	For Option 2	Abstained
Cllr Aspden	Cllr Alexander	Cllr D'Agorne
Cllr Ayre	Cllr Blanchard	Cllr Taylor
Cllr Brooks	Cllr Bowgett	Cllr Galvin (Lord Mayor)
Cllr Firth	Cllr Cregan	
Cllr Sue Galloway	Cllr Crisp	
Cllr Steve Galloway	Cllr Douglas	
Cllr Gillies	Cllr Fraser	
Cllr Healey	Cllr Funnell	
Cllr Hogg	Cllr Gunnell	
Cllr Holvey	Cllr Horton	
Cllr Hudson	Cllr King	
Cllr Hyman	Cllr Looker	
Cllr Kirk	Cllr Pierce	
Cllr Moore	Cllr Potter	
Cllr Morley	Cllr Scott	
Cllr Orrell	Cllr Simpson-Laing	
Cllr Reid	Cllr B Watson	
Cllr Runciman		
Cllr Sunderland		
Cllr Vassie		
Cllr Waller		
Cllr R Watson		
Cllr Watt		
Cllr Waudby		
Cllr Wiseman		
25	17	3

Option 1 was accordingly declared CARRIED by 25 votes to 17.

Nominations for Cycling Champion

The Lord Mayor then announced that three alternative options had been received in respect of the nominations for the Cycling Champion.

A named vote was taken on the first of these options, namely a job-share arrangement between Cllr D'Agorne and Cllr Merrett, as follows:

For	Against	Abstained
Cllr Alexander	Cllr Aspden	Cllr Galvin (Lord Mayor)
Cllr Blanchard	Cllr Ayre	
Cllr Bowgett	Cllr Brooks	
Cllr Cregan	Cllr Firth	
Cllr Crisp	Cllr Sue Galloway	
Cllr D'Agorne	Cllr Steve Galloway	
Cllr Douglas	Cllr Gillies	
Cllr Fraser	Cllr Healey	
Cllr Funnell	Cllr Hogg	
Cllr Gunnell	Cllr Holvey	
Cllr Horton	Cllr Hudson	
Cllr King	Cllr Hyman	
Cllr Looker	Cllr Kirk	
Cllr Pierce	Cllr Moore	
Cllr Potter	Cllr Morley	
Cllr Scott	Cllr Orrell	
Cllr Simpson-Laing	Cllr Reid	
Cllr Taylor	Cllr Runciman	
Cllr B Watson	Cllr Sunderland	
	Cllr Vassie	
	Cllr Waller	
	Cllr R Watson	
	Cllr Watt	
	Cllr Waudby	
	Cllr Wiseman	
19	25	1

The option for a job-share arrangement was accordingly declared LOST.

A named vote was then taken on the remaining options, namely the appointment of either Cllr D'Agorne or Cllr Merrett as Cycling Champion, as follows:

For Cllr D'Agorne	For Cllr Merrett	Abstained
Cllr Aspden	Cllr Alexander	Cllr Galvin (Lord Mayor)
Cllr Ayre	Cllr Blanchard	
Cllr Brooks	Cllr Bowgett	
Cllr D'Agorne	Cllr Cregan	
Cllr Firth	Cllr Crisp	
Cllr Sue Galloway	Cllr Douglas	
Cllr Steve Galloway	Cllr Fraser	
Cllr Gillies	Cllr Funnell	
Cllr Healey	Cllr Gunnell	
Cllr Hogg	Cllr Horton	
Cllr Holvey	Cllr Hudson	
Cllr Hyman	Cllr King	
Cllr Kirk	Cllr Looker	
Cllr Moore	Cllr Pierce	
Cllr Morley	Cllr Potter	

Cllr Orrell	Cllr Scott	
Cllr Reid	Cllr Simpson-Laing	
Cllr Runciman	Cllr B Watson	
Cllr Sunderland		
Cllr Taylor		
Cllr Vassie		
Cllr Waller		
Cllr R Watson		
Cllr Watt		
Cllr Waudby		
Cllr Wiseman		
26	18	1

The option to appoint Cllr D'Agorne as Cycling Champion was therefore declared CARRIED.

Strategic Policy Panel

The Lord Mayor then announced that a proposal had been received to re-establish the Strategic Policy Panel (SPP), for one meeting only, in order to deal with a request for a referral to the SPP of a decision taken by the Executive (Calling In) on 19 May 2009.

A named vote was taken on this proposal, as follows:

For	Against	Abstained
Cllr Alexander	Cllr Aspden	Cllr Galvin (Lord Mayor)
Cllr Blanchard	Cllr Ayre	
Cllr Bowgett	Cllr Brooks	
Cllr Cregan	Cllr Firth	
Cllr Crisp	Cllr Sue Galloway	
Cllr D'Agorne	Cllr Steve Galloway	
Cllr Douglas	Cllr Gillies	
Cllr Fraser	Cllr Healey	
Cllr Funnell	Cllr Hogg	
Cllr Gunnell	Cllr Holvey	
Cllr Horton	Cllr Hudson	
Cllr King	Cllr Hyman	
Cllr Looker	Cllr Kirk	
Cllr Pierce	Cllr Moore	
Cllr Potter	Cllr Morley	
Cllr Scott	Cllr Orrell	
Cllr Simpson-Laing	Cllr Reid	
Cllr Taylor	Cllr Runciman	
Cllr B Watson	Cllr Sunderland	
	Cllr Vassie	
	Cllr Waller	
	Cllr R Watson	
	Cllr Watt	
	Cllr Waudby	

	Cllr Wiseman	
19	25	1

The proposal was accordingly declared LOST and it was

RESOLVED: (i) That the allocation of seats to places for 2009/10 and those nominations to the Executive, Leader, Shadow Executive and remaining Committees, outside bodies etc be approved as set out under Option 1 above.

(ii) That Cllr D'Agorne be appointed as Cycling Champion for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

(iii) That the Strategic Policy Panel not be re-established.

**Note: Annexes A, B and C to item 5 on the Council agenda, together with the list of amendments, can be found by clicking on the link below:*

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.asp?CId=331&MId=3914&Ver=4>

J Galvin
LORD MAYOR OF YORK
[The meeting started at 11.00 am and concluded at 12.20 pm]

Leader's Report to Full Council 9th July 2009

Since the last Full Council report the Executive has considered a large amount of business with some key points drawn out in this report.

Council Headquarters.

The Executive received an update on the HQ project on 14th April and approved the public consultation process for two proposals: for Yorkshire House, and West Offices. A tremendous effort was put in by both teams to develop designs and visual representations of the draft proposals. I was particularly impressed by the amount of effort that had gone into examination of the sustainability features of the buildings.

West Offices



Welcoming, tranquil - away from the bustle of traffic

West Offices is one of York's finest residences. Now we plan to restore it to its former glory. We will bring back into public use a grand Grade II listed building, to help York's past and future. We will restore the whole site to create a vibrant new quarter for the city, combining the engineering area.

- restoring green and leafy garden area creates a refreshing, open, peaceful arrival setting, at the heart of the city and away from the bustle of the traffic
- simple parking for cycles and the disabled, right at the front door
- completely level access, to create the easiest access to any building
- a fine new building, making things sustainable headquarters for our historic city.

Around 1,000 people came to visit the exhibition in the Mansion House on 26th 27th and 28th May

Yorkshire House



Yorkshire House was built in the 1920s and looks out to the City Walls and across to the Minster. The new extension will replace an existing parking and car park and provide a new public entrance that is easy to access and also provides impressive meeting views across York.

As part of the scheme the pavement and pedestrian crossings to Station Road and Bridge Street will be improved, making them safer to use. Secure parking for disabled motor cars will be provided on the site.



Over 8000 of the household surveys asking residents to comment on the two proposals have been received back.

The bidders have been constantly reminded of the requirement to remain within the agreed budget set by Executive in mid 2008.

The next stage will be for detailed solutions to be worked up with final submission in September. Further public consultation will take place after Christmas when the preferred bidder is selected.

Community Engagement Strategy

The drawing together of public bodies like the council, police, NHS, and voluntary organisations, business community and other key components of the city under the 'Without Walls' partnership has huge potential to deliver improvements for York by

making sure that we all work together in a joined up way. Therefore it is important that the council has a Community Engagement Strategy to ensure that it is clear about what it wants to achieve in informing and consulting the public, and in turn that the public know what actions the council will take to inform, engage, and involve them at different stages in decision making.

There is already considerable opportunity for the public to engage with the council. In the recent Budget and Cycle City Consultation the over 8,000 households completed the consultation document, and the council showed in a insert to the recent edition of "Your City" how the views of the public fed into the Budget process and what actions were taken. The results of the Cycling Consultation have also been covered in reports to Executive. Ward Committees have a wide range of public participation, and until recently there was considerable public participation in many EMAP meetings.

The development of the Community Engagement Strategy is yet another example of the application of the Improvement Plan which is making a coordinated improvement on the way the council operates. There does need to be a specific response to the way in which the council engages with young people many of whom will not attend ward committees, but whom through the many school councils in the city, are developing interest in some of the key decisions which affect their lives.

Barbican

I am pleased to report that we have been able to work with local partners to find suitable alternative venues for the important community events which historically took place at the Barbican. I am also pleased that maintenance work has been initiated in line with the decisions of Executive and this will be completed over the summer period. We continue to work with our specialist advisers Drivers Jonas to progress options and avenues for the redevelopment and reopening of the building - we can expect, as planned, a detailed update at Executive on the 8th September.

Community Stadium

Officers have presented two reports on the proposals for a community stadium on 28th April and 23rd June. The latter report included the draft business plan for the venture with a series of different scaled solutions. The use of the stadium undercroft for health and Higher Education activities are interesting options, while incorporation of sustainability and renewable energy features are worth pursuing to create a stadium with a difference, and to develop the business case. Council will be asked to approve the additional funding for the project to take it onto the next phase. This will involve the undertaking of a feasibility study for a full business case, site selection and feasibility (to align with the LDF process) and production of final findings by July 2010.

Transport improvements

The Executive approved the preferred option for the Clifton Moor Park and Ride site, and the outline design for the A59 roundabout with the Outer Ring Road for consultation.

Local Area Agreement Delivery Fund

Funding applications to the Local Area Agreement Delivery Fund were approved covering a wide range of applications including a pilot for hundreds of households in the city to develop more sustainability in their everyday life which will provide helpful information for the rest of the city, support for volunteering, tackling fuel poverty, fitness and healthy eating across age groups, and helping some of the most vulnerable members of the York community through the downturn. These schemes had been submitted by the Without Walls Delivery Board following a consultation process inviting groups and organisations in the city to make applications. The LSP staff are working to follow up unsuccessful bids, and where possible assist with the application to other sources of funding.



Cultural Quarter Scrutiny

The Executive considered the recommendations from the Cultural Quarter Scrutiny report and agreed that those items which fit with the City Centre Area Action Plan, and the York North West Area Action Plan should be dealt with through the LDF process, that Yorkshire Forward would be asked to consider the Cultural Quarter in the 'Geographic Programme' for York, and has passed on to "York at Large" the items that were specifically requested to be sent to that organisation for consideration.

One proposal approved by the Executive was for the Lord Mayor to become the Honorary Keeper of the Archive during their term of office, and I am pleased to see that the new Lord Mayor has taken up that role with enthusiasm. The Executive made £30,000 investment in the creation of a Development Trust for the Archives.

Sustainable Communities Act

The Executive received a report on the application of York's sign up to the Sustainable Communities Act. Officers worked to ensure that all ward committees were covered in the public consultation, and there was opportunity to input via the council website. This led to 327 suggestions, which was much higher than many council areas, and these were sifted to 46 which were covered by the Act. These have been taken on to a Citizens Panel for the next stage of sifting before the selection of the limited number that officers will work up into substantial application to the Local Government Association.

Council homes rents

The Executive approved a council house rent increase of 2.86% following the 'U-turn' by central government on council house rents. This was known by government in the last calendar year, but action was taken too late and it is regrettable that the costs to this authority of rebilling will not be refunded.

'One City' Update

On 12th May the council received an update on the "One City" campaign, and allocated LAGBI (Local Authority Business Growth Incentive) funds to specific projects within the city to support the local economy. One part of this was to support the "Spotlight on Skills" Campaign in conjunction with Yorkshire Forward, and Higher York (University of York, York St John University, York College and Askham Bryan College). The events were coordinated by Learning City York, with a huge input coming from Julia Massey. Over 100 employers and 290 individuals took advantage of the activities.

Events for businesses took place in the Hospitium on 4th June, and on 6th June there was a "Support for You" event at which residents were able to meet local employers with vacancies, advisors offering job search and training support, as well as programmes for those interested in starting up their own business. Over 30 different free personal and professional development workshops were available across the city during the month.

Business Initiatives in new sectors in the city

I attended the York St John University awards for art and design excellence on 22nd May where the links between education and business were very apparent and putting into practice those views from the Future York report that young people need to be equipped for commerce and business before they enter the world of work. Shops in the city will be showcasing some of the students work during Freshers Week. The previous week I attended the launch of the business incubator "Phoenix Centre" at St John University which is an initiative led by Science City York and Yorkshire Forward to develop the growth of a new generation of creative and digital businesses in the city. These illustrate the work that is going into creating new job opportunities in York in new upcoming areas of the economy.



Start4Art awards which build on links between the Faculty of Art and business, creative projects and partnerships in the city



Launch of the Phoenix Centre, business incubator based on the York St.John campus.

Kerbside Recycling Expansion

The Executive considered the report outlining how we are going to meet the Government target of offering all households a doorstep collection of at least two recyclates by Dec 2010. It built on the Waste Strategy approved in Sept 08 and on

the work being currently carried out in the Groves area of the city. Currently 7520 properties do not have any recycling service and we only collect one material from a further 3990 properties. In addition 12,250 properties currently have a full recycling service and a weekly residual waste collection and they will migrate on to alternate weekly collections (AWC).

The Groves trial has proved successful so far with residents of the flats embracing recycling enthusiastically. Provision of high quality communal containers has helped and 99% of residents in flats claim to recycle now against 55% before. They have also found no problems in managing their waste even though they are now on AWC. 89% of residents in those terraced houses now on the scheme are recycling with 71% rating the service excellent or good and a general satisfaction with boxes and lids.



Although the aim will be to get everyone on to AWC with wheelie bins there will be instances where this is not possible for practical reasons. Where sacks are retained we are offering residents a wheelie bin to store the sacks in their back yard before carrying them through on collection day. Other options that will be explored include a collection point for wheelie bins, communal wheelie bin and sacks presented to a central collection point. Members will shortly receive details in their wards if they are involved in the roll out.

Local Development Framework

The Executive approved the process for the city wide household LDF consultation on preferred options in the light of the endorsement of the last council meeting of the view that the assumptions of the Regional Spatial Strategy are flawed as they take no account of the recession. The Executive supported the view of the LDF Working Group that the housing demand numbers which central government wishes to see incorporated into the LDF are flawed because of the recession, the view that actually windfall sites will continue to arise in the city and that that these will go some way to meeting demand over the next 20 years, and that the city cannot continue to expand at a rate of 850 homes indefinitely as this will fundamentally change the character and setting of York and the surrounding areas. Residents will have their opportunity to express their views on the RSS assumptions and their impact on the LDF in the consultation which has now commenced.

Staff Survey

The results of the sixth Staff Survey indicates that 71% of staff are satisfied with their present job, and that those who are very or fairly dissatisfied with their jobs has fallen

from 24% in March 2001 to 19% in the last two surveys. Given the uncertainties that have been created by the Pay and Grading review it is a tribute to the work that has been done in this area of the council that satisfaction levels have remained high. Looking across the years there has been a significant increase in staff saying that they have the resources to do their jobs up from 46% (2001) to 62% (2009).

The further analysis of the data broken down by department will be done as part of the follow up work, and is essential in order to progress actions in response to the comments from staff. It would be helpful if there was a common description of Personal Development Reviews (PDRs) across the council which could have been a factor in the figures of those who have had a PDR in the last year. The report detailed how the council will compare its figures with other councils and employees through ORC International

Improvement Plan

The Improvement Plan has been the active demonstration of the council's response to the Audit Commission's corporate assessment drawing together a number of improvements that are being worked upon. The elements that will receive attention in 2009/10 are :

1. Human Resources – taking up issues raised by the staff survey
2. Equalities – meeting the requirements of the new Equality Framework for Local Government
3. Health and Safety – building on the progress that has been achieved by reducing accidents and H&S issues, but also picking up matters raised in the staff survey
4. Member Training – putting into action the IdeA Charter
5. Project Management – corporate adoption of project and programme management, and standardising project review, and training
6. Code of Conduct Awareness – improving staff confidence in procedures
7. Partnership governance – building on the success of the LSP and other partnership working
8. Internal Communication – taking up matters raised in the staff survey
9. Risk Management – following specific request from the Executive for this area to be included

Improved Communication with residents

The Executive have agreed to improve regular communication with all residents with a revamp of the Your City publication which will come out more frequently than at the moment. The proposals took account of the impact of the recession, which has reduced the total amount of available advertising revenue in the city. Residents will see the new publication in the autumn.

Year End Performance and Financial Report

The 2008/09 corporate performance and financial outturn have recently been approved by the Executive. York has 43% of national indicators in the top quartile of councils compared to 30% of Best Value Performance Indicators in 2007/08. This is a tribute to the hard work of officers, and it should be noted that York remains the second lowest spending unitary authority per head.

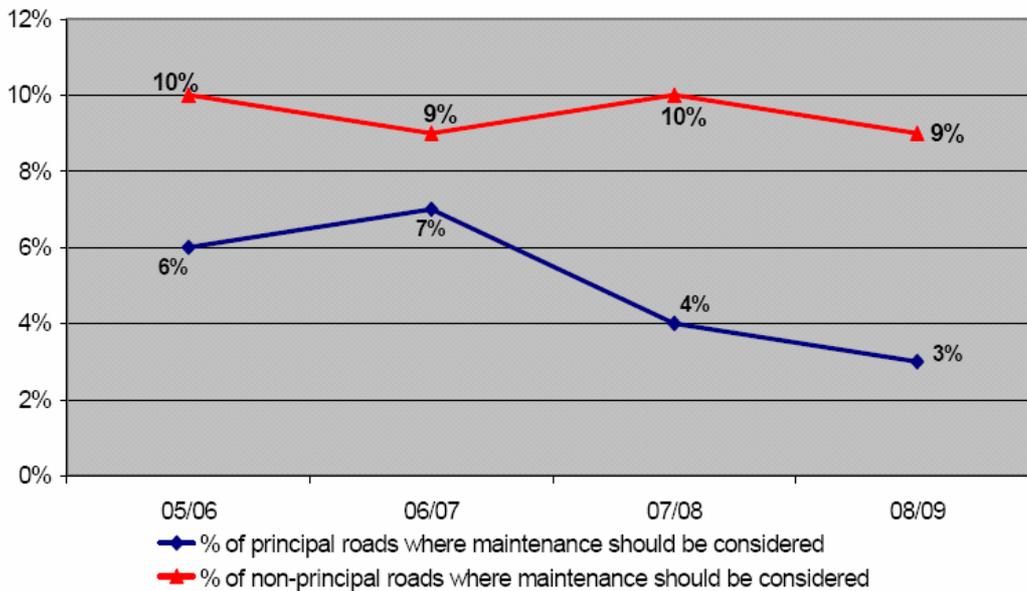
The level of reserves are at a prudent level to achieve the agreed capital programme and cope with the impacts of the recession over the next three years. Treasury management contributed just over £1 million towards the outturn of an underspend of approximately £1.5 million (with an agreed carry forward of £472,000 to complete activities and programmes that had been started in 2008/09).

Good progress has been made in the number of affordable homes available in York, with 151 homes being delivered in 2008/09, which makes up 30% of the total additional housing completed in York.

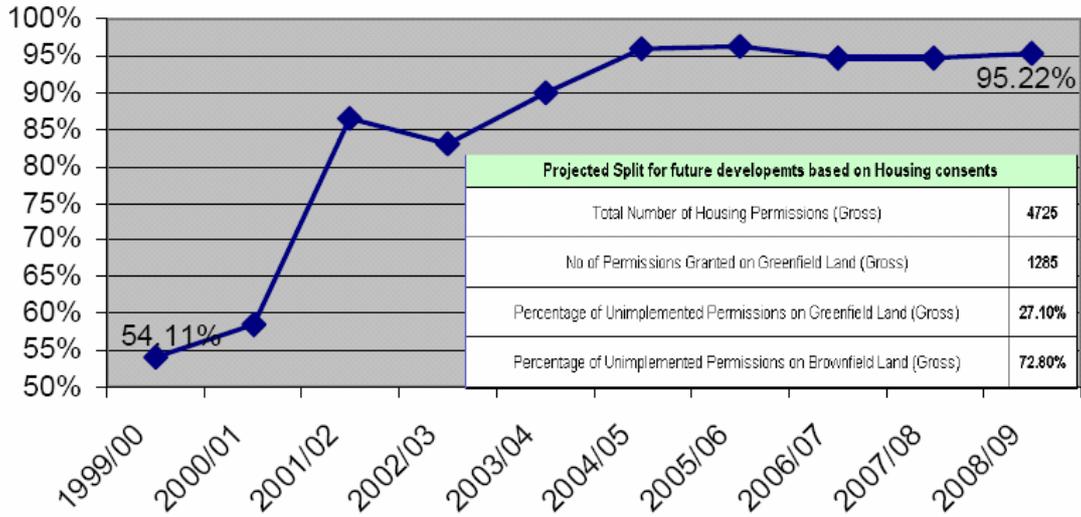
Education performance continues to be strong and in top quartile performance nationally.

Road Maintenance

The % of principle roads where maintenance should be considered has reduced since 2007/08 to 9% for principle roads and 3% for non principle roads (lower is better).

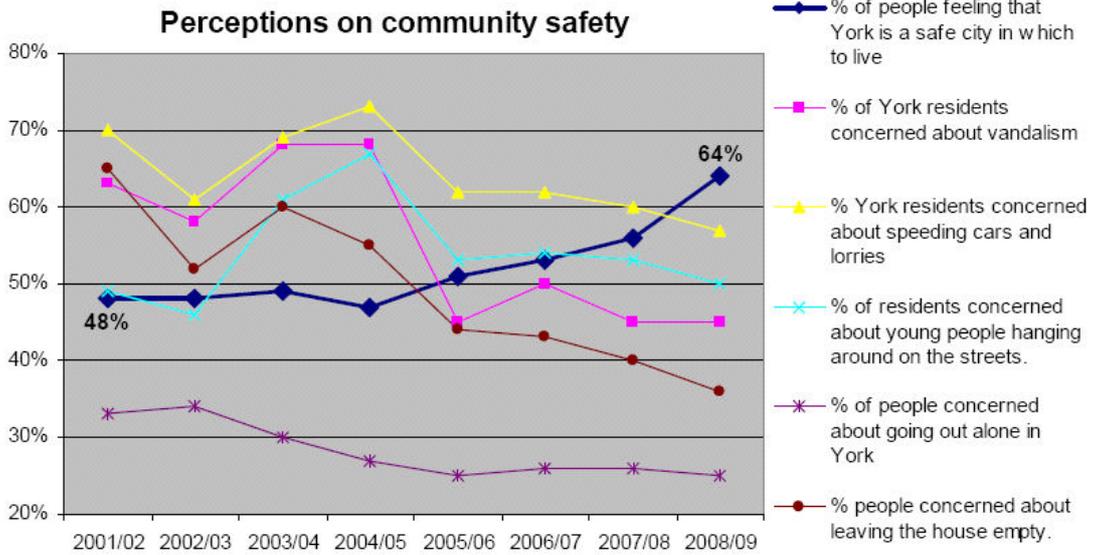


Brownfield - % of new homes built on previously developed land



Community Safety

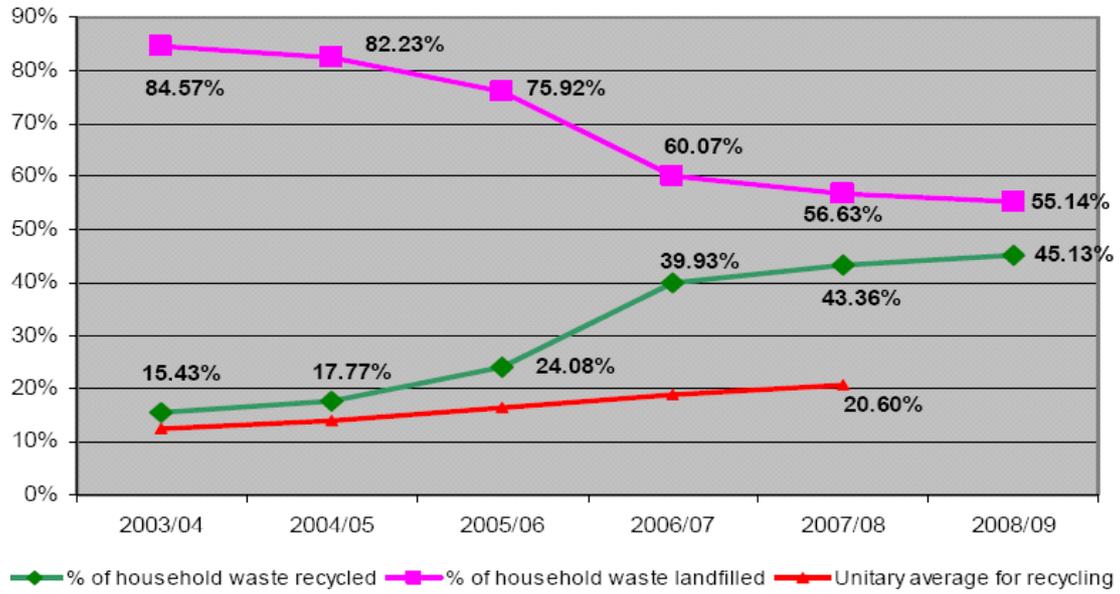
The perceptions of anti social behaviour and crime have fallen in the city over recent years while the number of people who feel York is a safe city to live has increased.



Waste collection and recycling

The amount of waste sent to landfill has continued to fall and the amount of household waste sent for recycling has continued to increase. Over the past 5 years excellent improvement in both recycling and landfill levels have been achieved and the council is now one of the best performing unitary councils in the country for recycling.

Graph to show recycling and waste landfill levels



Councillor Andrew Waller

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MEETING	EXECUTIVE
DATE	23 JUNE 2009
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS WALLER (CHAIR), AYRE, STEVE GALLOWAY, MOORE, MORLEY, REID AND RUNCIMAN

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

26. COMMUNITY STADIUM - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

[See also under Part A minutes]

Members considered a report which presented an outline business case for a community stadium in York, drawing on feasibility work undertaken by Five Lines Consulting, case studies for other stadiums across the UK and specialist advice provided to the Council.

The report included a demand assessment and an assessment of options, the latter providing an initial indication of the potential benefits, costs and viability of the four main options, as follows:

Option 1 – shared football and rugby core stadium, with a £1m contribution towards re-provision of an athletics facility elsewhere in the City.

Option 2 – shared football and rugby stadium, plus community sports village including a county standard athletics facility and sports pitches.

Option 3 – as per Option 2, plus an extensive range of community facilities.

Option 4 – as per Option 3, plus a hotel / conference centre.

The analysis at this early stage indicated that there was a significant capital shortfall for three of these options (Options 2-4). However Option 4, being supported by a key commercial anchor, could demonstrate both potential commercial robustness and wide community benefits.

A prudent approach was recommended, to ensure that any option developed did not expose the Council and its partners to future financial liability. The next steps, as outlined in paragraphs 13.3 to 13.5 of the report, would include development of a full business case, involving detailed feasibility work that would require in-depth analysis and the use of specialist resources. Following a project costing exercise, it was estimated that the total costs required to take the project to the next key and final feasibility stage would be £175k, representing an additional £100k on top of the budget already identified.

Having noted the comments of the Shadow Executive on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: That Council endorse the approach set out in the report and allocate £100k from general reserves in 2009/10 to provide funds for the delivery of this work,

which will include specialist external advice to ensure delivery within the next 12 months.¹

REASON: To enable the project to be progressed.

Action Required

1. Refer this recommendation to Full Council

GR

27. EQUAL PAY UPDATE

[See also under Part A minutes]

Members considered a report which provided a summary of the current position on the Council's equal pay litigation and sought a mandate to extend the scope of the type of equal pay claims to be settled and a decision on tactics around other types of equal pay claims.

A decision was also sought in respect of legal representation for the Council at the GMF hearing in November.

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve recommendation (v), as set out in paragraph 41 of the report.

REASON: In order to ensure appropriate legal representation at the hearing.

Action Required

1. Refer this recommendation to Full Council

GR

A Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.00 pm].

By virtue of paragraph(s) 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Full Council**9 July 2009**

Report of the Chair of Standards Committee

**Annual Report of Standards Committee
Year 08-09****Foreword by the Chair**

I am pleased to provide a foreword to this annual report of York's Standards Committee. I hope that, from this report, you will gain a good insight into our work.

We have accomplished much this year, including the recruitment and induction of three new independent members and two additional parish council members. It was good to know that we were able to attract enough high calibre applicants to meet the needs of the new local assessment framework, as detailed in Paragraph 6.

The committee is pleased to accept comments and questions about this report.

Summary

1. This report sets out a summary of the work and activity of the City of York Council Standards Committee during the municipal year 08/09.

Background

2. Each local authority is required by law to establish a Standards Committee to uphold and promote good standards of ethical conduct within the authority and any Parish Councils within the authority's area, focussing primarily on the activities of elected members. A major aspect of the committee's work concerns interpreting and applying the Members' Code of Conduct when dealing with complaints from members of the public. In addition the committee contributes to ensuring high ethical standards in other ways such as the review of internal protocols and raising awareness through training.
3. The committee consists of 11 members, 4 Elected Members of the authority, 4 Co-opted Independent Members and 3 Co-opted Parish Council Members. The Chair of the Committee and its sub-committees must be a Co-opted Independent Member and when the committee/sub-committee is dealing with a complaint concerning a Parish Council, it must include at least one Co-opted Parish Council representative.

4. In 2008 the committee established 3 sub-committees, Assessment, Review and Hearing, to deal with complaints under the new local assessment process introduced in May 2008. The local assessment sub-committee considers initial complaints and decides whether the complaint warrants further investigation. Following a complainant's request the review sub-committee reviews decisions of the assessment sub-committee where it has decided that no further action is necessary and finally, the hearings sub-committee considers the results of investigations where one has been initiated. The sub-committees sit in panels of three and must be chaired by a Co-opted Independent Member.

Summary of Activities

5. The Standards Committee has met on six occasions during the municipal year 08/09. In addition to these regular meetings the local assessment sub-committee has met on four occasions during which it considered six complaints concerning nine elected members. In two cases the sub-committee decided to initiate an investigation. The review sub-committee has met on 2 occasions and on both occasions it upheld the earlier decision of the local assessment sub-committee. The hearings sub-committee has not yet been convened to consider the report of an investigation initiated by the local assessment committee.

Specific Projects –

Implementing the New System for the Local Assessment of Complaints

6. One of the main pieces of work for the Standards Committee in the last year was the implementation of the new system for dealing with complaints about the conduct of elected members. Prior to May 2008 complaints against members were made to the Standards Board for England. Once they received a complaint their own staff would decide whether it warranted an investigation and, if so, the Standards Board would either investigate it or refer it to the local authority for investigation. Under the new system, complaints are made directly to the Monitoring Officer who is required to report them to the Local Assessment sub-committee of the Standards Committee which is responsible for deciding whether the complaint warrants investigating.
7. The actual process to be followed when assessing complaints locally is laid down in regulations and guidance issued by the Standards Board. In addition, the CoYC Standards Committee has developed a protocol to assist it and others to understand how complaints will be dealt with. As with any new system issues are emerging in practice and the Standards Committee will undertake a review of how the system has been functioning following a year in operation. Additionally, the Monitoring Officer, has taken part in a number of workshops with the Standards Board for England, in order to feedback concerns on how the new regime is working in practice and it is hoped that this may contribute to future development of the process.
8. One concern which has emerged both at CYC and at other councils, is the limited amount of information that may be given to the member being

complained about prior to the matter having been reported to the Local Assessment sub-committee. Another related issue is that the member complained about is not permitted to make any representations to the sub-committee at the initial assessment stage.

9. The implementation of the new local assessment system has been a major project for the Standards Committee and the officers supporting it. In addition to devising the processes the change in process was required to be publicised in order that the public are aware of how to complain. In this regard a dedicated area on the council's website was developed containing all the relevant information and guidance. The introduction of the system was also publicised in the press and the staff magazine. Members of the committee also undertook training workshops in order to familiarise themselves with the process and the nature of the decisions required to be made.

Review of the Member/Officer Protocol

10. Although much of the committee's efforts have been absorbed in the implementing and running the new complaints system, the committee has also found time to undertake some other specific projects including a review of the Member Officer Protocol which was initiated in response to the findings of the Ethical Governance Health check. The Health Check itself was undertaken by the Audit Commission whose final report was issued in June 2008 and discussed by the Standards Committee at its meeting in July 2008. The Ethical Health Check had highlighted potential areas for improvement in the way officers and members understand each others' roles and responsibilities and thereby facilitate more effective working relationships. The report also commented on the awareness of equalities and human rights legislation.
11. It was recognised that the Member/Officer protocol can play a part in establishing clear guidelines for members and officers as to their respective roles. The committee considered the protocols of a number of other local authorities and agreed some changes to the CYC protocol with the intention of making the protocol clearer and simpler. The revised draft protocol has been issued for consultation and the results are currently being collated and will be considered in the formulation of a final draft. The Standards Committee will agree a final draft and then recommend this to full council for approval.

Consultation – Revised Code of Conduct and an Officers' Code of Conduct

12. During the year the DCLG issued a consultation document that sought views on proposals to make further changes to the Members' Code of Conduct and on the introduction of a mandatory Officers' Code of Conduct. The proposed changes to the Members Code are various but include the extension of the code to cover actions in one's private life which may constitute a criminal offence. The Standards Committee discussed the proposals at length and a summary of the discussions was submitted to DCLG.

13. Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services and the Chair of Standards Committee attended the National Conference in Birmingham on 5 and 6 September 2008, at which developments in respect of the role of Standards Committees and the implementation of the new local assessment of complaints were discussed. The conference also included a range of workshops for delegates to give them hands on experience of a range of matters and the opportunity to share experiences with others from around the country and feedback to the Standards Board itself. The Monitoring Officer in conjunction with the Standards Board Head of Legal, ran a workshop on the initial stages of dealing with complaints.

Future Work-plan

14. Going forward into the new municipal year there are a number of significant areas of work for the Standards Committee. A revised code of conduct for members is expected to be issued at some stage during 2009 and this will need to be implemented and training undertaken. There may also be a new code of conduct for Officers which will need to be introduced and promoted and we await further news from the DCLG on this front.
15. With the additional workload arising from the new local assessment system there has been renewed interest in the possibility of joint working with other councils. New regulations have recently been enacted which specifically enable councils to establish joint standards committees to undertake some of the functions in this respect. It is envisaged that such arrangements may be particularly beneficial in the context of dealing with complaints as such joint arrangements offer the possibility of greater independence for the decision making panels and more consistency in decision making within an area.
16. However, there are many complex issues for the Standards Committee to consider before it would be in a position to make any recommendations regarding joint working and there would also need to be another council willing to explore the possibility. The Standards Committee shall give careful consideration to these issues and assess whether there are any potential benefits for York in pursuing such a course.
17. An ongoing challenge for the Standards Committee is that of promoting itself and its work within York in order to raise awareness of CYC's commitment to high standards of conduct. In this respect the committee will seek to raise its profile and seek to enhance its engagement with the 31 Parish Councils within the City of York boundary in recognition of the important part the Parishes play in the local government landscape.
18. As mentioned earlier in the report, the Standards Committee will also be conducting a review of the functioning of the new local assessment of complaints with a view to ensuring that the CYC protocol and structures are fit for purpose.
19. The Standards Committee will also be playing its part in supporting and contributing to relevant aspects of the Council's 'Improvement Plan'.

Closing Remarks from the Chair

The ethical agenda has once again been brought to the fore, in the minds of the general public, with the publicity surrounding the MP's expenses. It is evident that the public are interested in and concerned about ethical behaviour. Therefore the role of the Standards Committee in creating an ethical framework which governs the relationship between high standards of conduct and transparency and openness in decision making needs to be more widely publicised and promoted in order to ensure public confidence in the council's strong, healthy ethical culture.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	26 JUNE 2009
PRESENT	MRS BAINTON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR) CLLRS HORTON (VICE-CHAIR), WAUDBY, HUDSON AND TAYLOR (CYC MEMBERS) MR DIXON, MR HALL AND MR WILSON (INDEPENDENT MEMBERS) CLLRS CRAWFORD, MELLORS AND FORSTER (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS)

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL**10. REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL ON OFFICER/MEMBER RELATIONS**

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which informed them of the latest position on the review of the Council's Protocol on Officer / Member Relations.

On 23 January 2009, Members had approved a revised draft of the Protocol, subject to some additional amendments and further consultation. That consultation had now been completed, resulting in no responses other than one from Human Resources that welcomed the revised Protocol.

Members were therefore invited to recommend the revised Protocol, as amended in accordance with their comments at the January meeting, to Full Council for approval.

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the revised Protocol on Officer / Member Relations.

REASON: In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

C Bainton, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 4.30 pm].

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PART 5C - PROTOCOL ON OFFICER/MEMBER RELATIONS

1 Introduction and Principles

- 1.1 The purpose of this Protocol is to provide a set of principles to guide Members and officers of the Council in their relations with one another in such a way as to ensure the smooth running of the Council.
- 1.2 This Protocol should be read in conjunction with the Members' Code of Conduct, Employees' Code of Conduct, the Council's Constitution, Whistle-blowing Policy and any guidance issued by the Standards Committee, Audit and Governance Committee and/or the Monitoring Officer.
- 1.3 Certain employees, e.g. Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) and the statutory Chief Officers have responsibilities in law over and above their obligations to the Council and its Members that they must be allowed to discharge.

2 The Relationship: General Points

- 2.1 Both Councillors and officers are servants of the public, and they are indispensable to one another. But their roles and responsibilities are different .
 - 2.1.1 Councillors are responsible to the electorate and serve only so long as their term of office lasts. Members are representatives of the ward constituents and they also develop policies which will be implemented by the officers.
 - 2.1.2 Officers are responsible to the Council as a whole, they are employed by and ultimately responsible to the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service. Their job is to provide professional advice and support to relevant parts of the Council in developing and implementing the policies and decisions.
- 2.2 These are very different roles and this may in some circumstances give rise to tensions and, as such, it is essential that the working relationship between officers and Members is businesslike and founded upon mutual respect.
- 2.3 Member/officer relationships should be conducted in a positive and constructive way. Therefore it is important that any dealings between Members and officers should observe standards of courtesy and that neither party should seek to take unfair advantage of their position or seek to exert undue influences on the other party.

3 Expectations

3.1 What can Members expect from officers:

- Political neutrality;
- A commitment to act in the interests of the Council as a whole and not to any one political group;
- A professional approach to the working relationship;
- An understanding of their role and its pressures;
- Timely response to enquiries;
- Professional advice;
- Confidentiality where appropriate;
- Courtesy and respect;
- Compliance with the Officers' Code of Conduct.

3.2 What can officers expect from Members:

- Understanding of the requirements of their roles and an appreciation of competing calls on their time;
- A partnership working approach;
- Courtesy and respect;
- Political leadership and direction;
- Not to be bullied or subjected to inappropriate pressure;
- Acceptance of professional advice.
- Members shall act within the Code of Conduct at all times.

4 Specific Issues

4.1 Officer Advice and preparation of reports: – The provision of advice and the preparation of reports are central to the roles of many senior officers and they are under a duty to give their best advice in the interests of the Council as a whole. When carrying out these duties it is essential that they feel able to give full and frank advice even where this may not be supportive of a particular policy or decision promoted by a Member. Members must not seek to unduly influence the content of any report or try to persuade an officer to change their professional advice when drafting their reports.

4.2 Social contact between Members and officers:- Mutual respect between employees and Members is essential to good local government. Close personal familiarity between employees and Members that transcends the normal employer/employee relationship can potentially undermine Members' confidence in the political neutrality or even-handedness of an officer, and therefore, care should be exercised.

5 When Things Go Wrong

- 5.1 Procedure for Members:- From time to time the relationship between a Member and an officer may become strained for various reasons, including the tensions mentioned above. In such circumstances, it is essential that the Member should not raise such matters in a manner that is incompatible with the objectives of this Protocol. An officer has no means of responding to such criticisms in public. If a Member feels he/she has not been treated with proper respect, courtesy, or has any concerns about the conduct or capability of an officer he/she should raise the matter with the respective Head of Service/Assistant Director. The Head of Service/Assistant Director will then look into the facts and report back to the Member. If the Member continues to feel concern then he/she should report the facts to the appropriate Director, or if, after doing so is still dissatisfied, should raise the issue with the Chief Executive. Any action taken against an officer in respect of a complaint will be in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Disciplinary Rules and Procedures.
- 5.2 Where an officer feels that he/she has not been properly treated with respect and courtesy by a Member, he/she should raise the matter with his/her Head of Service/Assistant Director, Director or the Chief Executive as appropriate, especially if they do not feel able to discuss it directly with the Member concerned. In these circumstances the Head of Service/Assistant Director, Director or the Chief Executive will take appropriate action either by approaching the individual Member and/or Group Leader or by referring the matter to the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services for advice on how to proceed.

6 Officer Support: Member and Party Groups

- 6.1 It must be recognised by all officers and Members that in discharging their duties and responsibilities, officers serve the Council as a whole and not any political group, combination of groups or any individual Member of the Council.

Party groups are a recognised part of local authorities and it is common practice for such groups to give preliminary consideration to matters of Council business in advance of such matters being considered by the relevant Council decision making body. Officers may properly be called upon to support and contribute to such deliberations by party groups but must at all times maintain political neutrality.

- 6.2 In providing this support to party groups certain points must be understood by both officers and Members:
- (a) Officer support must be limited to providing information and advice in relation to matters of a Council business. Officers must not be involved in advising on matters of party business. It is recommended that officers are not present at meetings or parts of meetings where matters of party business are to be discussed.

- (b) Party group meetings, whilst they form part of the preliminaries to Council decision making, are not empowered to make decisions on behalf of the Council. Conclusions reached at such meetings do not therefore rank as Council decisions and it is essential that they are not interpreted or acted upon as such.
 - (c) Where officers provide information and advice to a party group meeting in relation to a matter of Council business, this cannot act as a substitute for providing all necessary information and advice to the relevant committee or sub-committee when the matter in question is considered.
- 6.3 Special care needs to be exercised whenever officers are involved in providing information and advice to party groups or other meetings which include persons who are not Members of the Council or Elected Members. Such persons are not bound by the Members' Code of Conduct (in particular, the provisions concerning declarations of interest and confidentiality) and, for this and other reasons, officers may not be able to provide the same level of information and advice as they would to a Member only meeting.
- 6.4 Officers must respect the confidentiality of any party group discussions at which they are present in the sense that they should not relay the content of any such discussion to another party group, but officers must have regard to a Member's right of access to information and Council documents which are referred to in paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2 above. However the confidentiality of information discussed in the presence of an officer cannot be guaranteed in all cases as it may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act.
- 6.5 In relation to budget proposals;
 - (a) The administration shall be entitled to confidential discussions with officers regarding options and proposals. These will remain confidential until determined by the Administration or until published in advance of the Executive/Council meetings, whichever is the earlier;
 - (b) The opposition groups shall be entitled to confidential discussions with officers to enable them to formulate alternative budget proposals. These will remain confidential until determined by the respective opposition groups or until published in advance of Executive/Council meetings, whichever is the earlier.
- 6.6 Any particular difficulty or uncertainty in this area of officer advice to party groups should be raised with the Chief Executive who will discuss them with the relevant Group Leader(s).

7 Officer Support: The Executive

- 7.1 It is important that there should be a close working relationship between Executive Members and the officers who support and/or interact with them. However such relationships should never be allowed to become so close, or appear to be so close, as to bring into question the officer's ability to deal impartially with other Members and other party groups.
- 7.2 Whilst Executive Members will be consulted as part of the process of drawing up proposals for consideration or the agenda for a forthcoming meeting, it must be recognised that in some situations an officer will be under a professional duty to submit a report. A Director, Head of Service/Assistant Director will always be fully responsible for the contents of any report submitted in his/her name. This means that any such report will be amended only where the amendment reflects the professional judgement of the author of the report.
- 7.3 Under Executive arrangements, individual Members of the Executive may, in some situations, take decisions. The Council has put in place mechanisms to ensure that the individual Executive Member seeks advice from relevant Members and officers before making a decision with his/her delegated authority. This includes taking legal advice, financial advice and professional officer advice as well as consulting the Monitoring Officer where there is doubt about powers to act.
- 7.4 Officers will continue to work for and serve the Council as a whole. However, as the majority of functions will be the responsibility of the Executive it is likely that in practice many officers will be working to the Executive for most of their time. The Executive must respect the political neutrality of the officers. Officers must ensure that their political neutrality does not appear to be compromised.

8 Officer Support: Overview and Scrutiny

- 8.1 It is not the role of Overview and Scrutiny to act as a disciplinary tribunal in relation to the actions of Members or officers. Neither is it the role of officers to become involved in what would amount to disciplinary investigations on a panels behalf. This means:
- (a) Overview and Scrutiny's questioning about the conduct of individuals should be in the sense of establishing the facts about what occurred in the making of decisions or implementing of Council policies, not to imply criticism or blame;
 - (b) In these circumstances, it is for the Chief Executive to institute a formal enquiry, and Overview and Scrutiny may ask (but not require) him to do so.

- 8.2 Overview and Scrutiny should not act as a “Court of Appeal” against decisions or to pursue complaints by individuals, as other procedures exist for this. These are internal, eg the Corporate Complaints Procedure, and external/statutory, eg Local Government Ombudsman, Standards Board for England, or appeal to the Courts. However:
- (a) Overview and Scrutiny may investigate the manner in which decisions are made but should not pass judgement on the merits of a decision in individual cases;
 - (b) They can comment on the merits of a particular policy affecting individuals.
- 8.3 Wherever possible Overview and Scrutiny should provide written questions or details of indicative topics to someone invited to appear before a panel to ensure they have adequate time to prepare for the meeting. In addition, invitees ought to be told the general line that further questioning is likely to take. Questioning should not stray outside the subject area that the Panel has previously indicated.

9 Members’ Access to Information and to Council Documents

- 9.1 Members have the ability to ask for information pursuant to their legal rights to information. This right extends to such information, explanation and advice as they may reasonably need in order to assist them in discharging their role as a Member of the Council. This can range from a request for general information about some aspect of the Council’s activities to a request for specific information on behalf of a constituent. Such approaches should normally be directed to the Director, Head of Service or Assistant Director of the Directorate concerned. In cases of doubt Members should approach the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services for assistance.
- 9.2 The legal rights of Members to inspect Council documents are partly covered by statute and partly by common law. Members have a statutory right to inspect any Council document which contains material relating to any business which is to be transacted by the Council. This right applies irrespective of whether the Member is a Member of the committee or sub-committee concerned and extends not only to reports which are to be submitted to the meeting, but also to any relevant background papers. This right does not, however, apply to the documents relating to items which may appear as a confidential item on the agenda for a meeting.
- 9.3 In relation to the business of the Executive, by virtue of Regulation 17 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000:
- (a) Where there is a meeting and there is a document which is in the possession/under the control of the Executive relating to the business to be conducted at the meeting, that document shall be available for inspection;

- (b) Where the decision is made at a private meeting by an Executive Member or is a Key Decision delegated to an officer, the document shall be available either after the meeting closes or when the decision is made;
 - (c) There are exemptions for confidential material.
- 9.4 The common law rights of Members are based on the principle that any Member has a right to inspect Council documents so far as his or her access to the documents is reasonably necessary to enable the Member properly to perform his or her duties as a Member of the Council. This principle is commonly referred to as the “need to know” principle.
- 9.5 The exercise of this common law right depends upon an individual Member being able to demonstrate that he or she has the necessary “need to know”. In this respect a Member has no right to a “roving commission” to go and examine documents of the Council. Mere curiosity is not sufficient. The crucial question is the determination of the “need to know”. This question must be determined by the particular Director or Assistant Director with advice from the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services.
- 9.6 In some circumstances the Member will be expected to justify the request to inspect a document. In addition there will be a range of documents, which, because of their nature are either not accessible to Members or are accessible only by the political group forming the administration and not by the other political groups. An example of this latter category would be draft documents compiled in the context of emerging Council policies and draft Committee reports, the disclosure of which prematurely might be against the Council’s and/or the public interest.
- 9.7 Any Council information provided to a Member must only be used by the Member for the purpose for which it was provided, ie in connection with the proper performance of the Member’s duties as a Member of the Council. Therefore, for example, early drafts of Committee reports/briefing papers are not suitable for public disclosure and should not be used other than for the purpose for which they were supplied, ie to brief the Member. The Members Code of Conduct contains specific rules about confidential information.
- 9.8 Members also have the same rights as any member of the public to access to information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

10 Correspondence

- 10.1 Correspondence between an individual Member and an officer should not be copied (by the officer) to any other Member. Where exceptionally it is necessary to copy to another Member, this should be made clear to the original Member.
- 10.2 Official letters and electronic communications on behalf of the Council should be sent in the name of the appropriate officer, rather than in the name of the Member. It may be appropriate in certain limited circumstances (eg, representations to a Government Minister) for a letter to appear in the name of an Executive Member or the Leader, but this should be the exception rather than the norm. Letters which, for example, create legal obligations or give instructions on behalf of the Council should never be sent out in the name of a Member.

11 Communication of Officer Delegated Decisions

- 11.1 Notwithstanding the rights of Members to information and to Council documents set out in this Protocol, officers taking decisions under delegated authority from the Executive must ensure that relevant Members have prompt information regarding the decision, the reasons for the decision and the impact of the decision.
- 11.2 For the purposes of this protocol “relevant Member” will include:
- (a) Members of any Ward upon which the decision is likely to impact.
 - (b) Members of the Executive and Shadow Executive where the decision falls within their portfolio area.
 - (c) Members of any relevant Committee or advisory panel where if it was not for delegation to officers, the decision would be taken by that Committee or panel.
 - (d) All Members of the Council where the decision is likely to have a corporate impact.
- 11.3 If any Member becomes aware that they have not been provided with the information in accordance with this protocol the matter should be raised with the appropriate Director and/or the Chief Executive.

12 Publicity and Press Releases

- 12.1 Local Authorities are accountable to their electorate. Accountability requires local understanding. This will be promoted by the Council, explaining its objectives and policies to the electors and customers. Local Authorities use publicity to keep the public informed and to encourage public participation. The Council needs to tell the public about the services it provides. Good effective publicity should aim to improve public awareness of the Council’s activities. Publicity is a sensitive matter in any

political environment because of the impact it can have. Expenditure on publicity can be significant. It is essential to ensure that decisions on publicity are properly made in accordance with the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity and the Council's Media Protocol.

- 12.2 Officers and/or Members should seek advice from Head of Marketing and Communications when making decisions on publicity, and particular care should be paid to any publicity used by the Council around the time of an election.

13 Involvement of Ward Councillors

- 13.1 Whenever a public meeting is organised by the Council to consider a local issue, all the Members representing the Wards affected should as a matter of course, be invited to attend the meeting. Similarly, whenever the Council undertakes any form of consultative exercise on a local issue, the Ward Members should be notified at the outset of the exercise. In addition officers should consider whether other policy or briefing papers, or other topics being discussed with an Executive Member should be discussed with relevant Ward Members. Officers should seek the views of the appropriate Executive Member(s) as to with whom and when this might be done.

14 Monitoring and Review

- 14.1 The application and implementation of this Protocol will be monitored and reviewed by the Council's Standards Committee in consultation with the Council's Monitoring Officer.



Scrutiny Report To Council

Report of the Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee

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

Update on Scrutiny Work

SMC

2. There has been one meetings of SMC since the last update to Council, at which we considered reports on the following:

Updates on the implementation of recommendations

3. Scrutiny Management Committee has received updates on the implementation of the recommendations from the reviews on 'Guidance for Sustainable Development' and 'Takeaways: Powers of Enforcement'. The Committee has now completely signed off the 'Takeaways: Powers of Enforcement' Review but there are still several recommendations outstanding on the 'Guidance for Sustainable Development' Review. The Economic and City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee will now monitor the implementation of the outstanding recommendations.

Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)

4. Committee received a report regarding the Councillor Call for Action. The report set out best practice advice on how officers within the Council could support Members in dealing with potential CCfAs.

Final Reports

5. Members of the Committee also received the final report on the 'Extended Schools Agenda' Review undertaken by the Education Scrutiny Committee and the final report of the Hungate Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee. The Committee agreed that the reports and their associated annexes be noted, accepted and forwarded to the Executive.

Interim Report of the Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee

6. Finally the Committee received an interim report from the Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee. SMC noted the findings to date. They also requested that the remaining 2008/09 scrutiny budget be carried forward in order to finance the planned consultation survey and recommended that, in the event the carry forward was not approved the matter be referred back to SMC for further consideration.

Health Scrutiny Committee

7. Since last Council the Health Scrutiny Committee has continued work on the Annual Health Check, which is the system that the Care Quality Commission (formerly the Healthcare Commission) uses to assess the performance of all NHS Trusts and a few other types of organisations in the NHS in England. The Health Scrutiny Committee has worked with North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (NYYPCT), York Hospital Foundation Trust and Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) to produce submissions to be included with the Trusts' declarations.
8. They have also received information reports on the Public Health Bill 2009, Health Scrutiny Networking and 'Delivering Healthy Ambitions'; this sets the direction for the NHS in the Yorkshire & Humber Region for the next five to ten years. They also received further information on the 'Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy' in relation to a previously submitted scrutiny topic. Committee decided not to proceed with the topic.
9. Finally Committee received an update on dental services in the York area and agreed that they would like to continue monitoring dental services on a quarterly basis.

Education Scrutiny Committee

10. The Education Scrutiny Committee has met twice since they last reported to Council. They continued work on and received the draft final report on the 'Extended Schools Agenda' Review; prior to it being presented to SMC.

Cultural Quarter Ad-hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee

11. The work of the above Committee is now complete, the Executive having considered and approved the recommendations within the final report.

Hungate Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee

12. This Committee has met once since the last report to Council where they considered their draft final report. This has, subsequently been presented to SMC and is due to be presented to the Executive in July 2009.

Planning Enforcement Scrutiny Ad-hoc Sub-Committee

13. This Ad-hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee has met twice since last Council. At the first of these meetings the Committee received an interim report containing further information to support the review. During the second meeting Committee gave consideration to the draft final report. The final report is now complete and will be presented to SMC at the end of July and to the Executive in September.

Supporting the new Scrutiny Structure

14. In addition to the above there has been ongoing work to implement the new Scrutiny Structure. The first meeting in the cycle is due to take place on 30th June and the outcomes of this will be reported back to Council in the next report from the Chair of SMC

Councillor Paul Healey
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee

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Report of the Executive Member for Corporate Services

Since the last report there have been a number of changes in the senior management team of the Resources Directorate. A new Director joined in August 2008, and two new Assistant Directors were appointed in 2008/09. The newly formed Management Team have worked together over the year, to ensure that the Resources Directorate is able to meet the challenges facing the Council, including the impact of the economic downturn and Government decisions. The Directorate was restructured in November 2008, to align workstreams more equitably and with a view to giving increased focus to key areas such as efficiency, income collection, customer services, and ensuring key statutory functions are delivered effectively.

The Directorate is also leading the way in terms of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council, through major corporate activity such as the financial strategy, the new Corporate Strategy, the new business model for the Council, implementation of the new financial management system (FMS), pay and grading, and the "More for York" programme. Also, with the Director of People & Improvement going on maternity leave, both HR and Legal and Democratic Services have been reporting to the Director of Resources. While it will take some months yet for some of the changes to become openly apparent the performance of the Directorate has improved and is expected to continue to do so.

Corporate Finance

In June, Executive received the Performance and Finance report for 2008/09. The report detailed significant areas where performance has improved during the year, including over three quarters of Local Area Agreement indicators improving and two thirds hitting or exceeding the target for the year. The council's first Place Survey results are also extremely encouraging with over half of the measures demonstrating performance in the top quartile. The results provide a positive indication of how York citizens feel about living and working in the city.

The financial performance of the Council demonstrated the organisation's robust approach to financial management, with an overall underspend of almost £1.5m against budget in 2008/09. In spite of the difficult economic climate, the Treasury Management function continued to perform well financially, although this area is expected to come under greater pressure through the current financial year. The underspend was supplemented by a net VAT refund of £1.8m as a result of a successful claim against HMRC, and this one-off windfall will be held in reserves to provide some financial stability over the medium term. York does however remain the second lowest spending unitary per head, and therefore the performance improvements achieved in 2008/09, when considered in the context of low spending demonstrate excellent value for money for the citizens of York.

The Audit and Governance Committee approved the Pre-Audit 2008/09 Statement of Accounts at the end of June, within the three-month statutory deadline required by accounting legislation. The Committee were made aware of the significant improvements made to the 'closing of accounts' process during the last 12 months, and it is expected that these improvements will be recognised by the Audit Commission when they give their opinion on the accounts to Audit and Governance Committee at the end of September.

Looking forward, Executive also received a report in June on the proposed process to support the preparation of the 2010/11 revenue budget including the how resources are to be distributed in order to facilitate achievement of the Council's strategic and corporate priorities. The process builds on the strong financial planning framework that already exists at CYC, and outlines improvements which will ensure financial planning remains effective in order to manage existing and future budget pressures through 2010/11 and the medium term.

In late summer, a review will take place of all the Council's financial reserves. The review will establish a five-year Reserves Strategy, which will be based on a fundamental understanding of identified risks and known future commitments. The Reserves Strategy will form a critical element of the Council's overall financial management framework that will need to remain strong and robust through what will be an extremely challenging financial period over the medium term.

York Customer Centre

March – May (inclusive):

Calls offered:	86,323
Calls handled:	85,432
% calls handled:	99%
Target	95% within 20 seconds

The opening hours were extended from 17:00 to 19:00 and of the total calls offered 1% were between the extended opening hours. This is early days and the staff are continuing to monitor activity. Within these extended hours 289 calls were for the York Pride Action Line and 657 were regarding Council Tax. The Contact Centre's one millionth call was received in May. The customer has been contacted and will receive ten free swimming sessions.

Business Rates

York's collection rate fell from 98.3% to 97.5% but moves up from 4th to 3rd quartile. The average collection rate for England dropped from 98.8% to 98.4% and for Unitary Authorities from 98.6% to 98.4%. The annual billing went smoothly, with nearly 84,500 Council Tax bills and 5,500 NNDR (business rates) bills sent.

Council Tax

York's rate fell only slightly from 97.3% to 97.2% but remains unchanged in the 3rd quartile, remaining mid-table for Unitary Authorities. Overall the collection rate for England also dropped 0.1% to an average of 97.0%, and for Unitary Authorities the average remained unchanged at 96.7%.

The single occupancy discount review is scheduled to start in July. This is normally carried out annually during the annual billing period. However this year a more targeted approach will take place. There will be some publicity in the local Press to give the public notice of the review so that they can contact the council if they are in receipt of a discount they now feel they may no longer be entitled to. Customers will also be encouraged to claim for a discount if they feel they may be entitled to one. The review letters will not be sent out to customer until the appropriate data checks are completed - it is anticipated this will be around mid-July. In conjunction with other local authorities CYC adapted a new Direct Debit take up campaign leaflet and distributed with reminders advising resident of the DD option and benefits to using this method of payment.

Benefits

The time taken to process new claims and change events last year stood at 15 days, compared to 19 days in the previous year. This is despite an increase of over 7% in claimants, due to the economic downturn. However, significant activity is currently being undertaken to improve benefits systems and processes which will improve processing times further. Also, approximately eight thousand customers' rent accounts had their rents reduced retrospectively from 6th April, over the weekend of 13/14th June 2009. This meant that 5,800 Housing Benefit claims had to be reassessed and new levels notified to customers. While

most of the work was done automatically it needed much preparation and testing, and around four hundred claims need to be manually checked.

Income, recovery & risk management

As part of the restructure all income and recovery functions within Resources were combined under one structure, at the same time as implementing FMS for the debtors process . This will be a workstream within the efficiency programme.

Financial procedures and financial governance have also been strengthened through the development of various procedures, such as the Asset Disposal Policy, a revised Risk Management Policy & Strategy and revised Draft Financial Regulations. There is also work planned for contract procedure rules, supplementary guidance to Financial Regulations, a debt policy. These will all be progressed with the appropriate training. Officers have also reviewed the Corporate Risk Register and analysed the impact of the Economic Downturn on council services.

Internal Audit / Counter Fraud / Information Governance

A shared service, with North Yorkshire County Council was launched on 1st April 2009. The new company is called Veritau Limited. This is expected to bring benefits in the effective use of the combined resources for both councils, e.g skills sharing, best practice, improved systems and improved coverage. The staff have ongoing successful prosecutions of benefits fraud cases, some £304,341 in value and, as members will have seen from The Press, this is a trend which is continuing into the current year.

Performance

Key achievements within this department include:

- Refresh of the Corporate Strategy
- Review of 2008/09 Single Improvement Plan
- Refresh of the Improvement Plan, with a report to Executive in July 2009.
- Development of the Business Model (officer governance model) to be launched in July 2009.
- Development of a new Performance Management Framework for the Council for finance and performance reporting.
- Positive outcomes from the Audit Commission Data Quality Audits.
- Preparations for Comprehensive Area Assessment - including completion of Use of Resources self assessment, with Local Strategic Partnership self assessment underway.
- Full Governance Review undertaken, which informed a review of the Code of Corporate Governance, the Improvement Plan and the Use of Resources self assessment.

Efficiency Review

On 7th July the Executive received a paper on the Efficiency Review and proposals for a broad transformation programme called "More for York", which will deliver the Corporate Strategy Objective to become a more Effective Organisation. The programme will deliver more for customers, more for staff and more for the Council's money.

This programme will deliver service improvements and cost savings and will build upon much of the good work undertaken over the last few years, such as easy@york. The programme includes six strands of work that sit across the Resources Directorate, to improve the delivery of HR, ICT, Customer Services, Procurement, income collection and to review management structures across the whole organisation.

This work is being undertaken in partnership with Northgate Kendric Ash (NKA) who will bring external expertise, skills and capacity to supplement the Council's own transformation efforts. NKA already have a proven track record in the transformation of the Council's transport fleet. This is an exciting programme that will shape the delivery of services for the future, helping to create excellent services that are responsive to customer requirements, culminating in the physical move to the new headquarters in 2012. The programme also plays an essential role in delivering the financial strategy, by making £15m of efficiencies required by Government, over the next three years.

Information Technology

The ICT service has completed the roll-out of 450 thin client low energy desk top devices, helping to support the corporate sustainability objective by reducing the council's CO₂ emissions by 188 tonnes per year, which is 10% of the Council's corporate target and a saving of £35,000 per year in energy bills.

The department has also successfully introduced the corporate Electronic Document Management System and is now scanning all paperwork for Benefits, Council Tax, Payroll, Finance, and will soon be taking on recruitment and Housing. It will then be able to decommission one existing DMS system, saving £30k. Back scanning of old paperwork for Children's Social Services and Environmental Health has begun, reducing future storage space for the new HQ. Work is ongoing to scan all white mail for City Strategy.

April saw the successful implementation of a new Financial Management System. Work is ongoing to ensure that business improvements are driven out and efficiencies achieved through extensive use of electronic systems, particularly for the processing of creditor payments.

In the next few days it is expected that the Council will achieve accreditation to "Government Connect", which will ensure that the systems will be able to share data with central Government.

The corporate electronic data storage system has been upgraded and has improved performance and increased capacity. This has also enabled reduction of the number of computer servers, as data will be stored centrally and processing will happen on a small number of "virtual" servers, rather than having a dedicated computer for every single system. This makes the systems more robust and has reduced the amount of electricity used.

The IT service as a whole received and resolved over 36,000 support calls last year and achieved 92% customer satisfaction.

Pay & Grading

The Council and the three trade unions signed a collective agreement on the 4th December 2008 which enabled the implementation of new pay and grading arrangements for over 6,500 employees. The new pay structure and allowances for the staff covered by the proposals were subsequently implemented in the December 2008 payroll, retrospective to 1st April 2008. Implementation of the new arrangements generally went smoothly which, given the complexity of the changes being made and the timescales the work was undertaken, reflected the detailed planned undertaken and the hard work of all of those involved. A relatively small number of issues arose, which were promptly and successfully addressed. The error rate in handing approximately 34,000 transactions was 0.88%, which is a magnificent achievement.

A significant amount of work still remains in order to fully modernise the Council's pay and grading arrangements including the modernisation of pay and grading arrangements for all of the Council's other bargaining groups, such as Craft, Solbury, Youth & Community Workers

and Chief Officers. Work also continues to manage the Council's equal pay issues, and preparation is well underway for the Employment Tribunal hearing scheduled for November 2009.

Office of the Future

The "Office of the Future" was launched with all the staff and managers involved in the pilot in May 2009. The launch event included an interactive session, where the views of staff from the pilot teams were sought to establish their 'past, present and future' working experiences and perceptions. Staff were issued with an on-line "New Ways of Working" questionnaire, with the aim of gathering staff and manager views on new ways of working. The results of the survey are due out shortly, and will serve as benchmark data as well as inform the HR workstream work and the Council's 'new ways of working' strategy, flexible working and workstyle policy development. HR have delivered a suite of flexible working policies to support this project.

The project teams workstreams are currently working closely with Champion representatives from the pilot team, to establish base line data, assess needs of the LCCS teams and prepare elements ready to be trialled later in the year.

Workforce Planning and Development

In recent months the Council has taken several significant steps in developing its approach to workforce planning and development, which address key elements of the Use of Resources CAA assessment. This work underpins key themes in the Business Model, the Improvement Plan, the Corporate Strategy and the More for York Programme.

- In November 2008 CYC signed the Skills Pledge, to commit to supporting our employees to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills and work towards Level 2 qualifications.
- A framework is being implemented to help each directorate recruit and develop apprentices across a wide range of services.
- A new Management Development Framework will equip managers with the required skills and knowledge to operate effectively and deliver corporate objectives. It will comprise mandatory modules, bring managers up to date with current 'in year' priorities and provide a range of development opportunities to pick up needs identified at the annual Performance & Development Reviews.

The HR Transformation Project

This is a fundamental area of work for HR and the wider organisation and is one of the key elements of the "More for York" programme, the aim being that, supported by the new IT systems, the future HR service will provide seamless support to managers and staff through all phases of the employees' lifecycle within CYC.

The project covers many areas but in summary the four main work streams running concurrently include:

1. Procurement and implementation of a new fully integrated HR / Payroll IT system to replace Delphi. The decision about which new system CYC buys and how it is implemented is fundamental to the success of the wider project. CYC is now in Stage 3 of the procurement process timetable, with four suppliers being considered. A preferred IT solution supplier should be identified by the end of August.
2. Implementation of a new E-Recruitment IT system. To streamline the way the Council manages its recruitment, to bring consistency and greater efficiency to the process.

3. Process and organisational re-design. In order to make best use of the new IT systems there is a significant piece of work to be done to ensure all HR processes are reviewed and re-designed to make optimum use of the IT solutions. At the same time and in line with the process review, there is a need to streamline the way HR is delivered, to support to managers across CYC with the aim of bringing a fragmented system of delivery split between Directorates together into one HR Business Support Centre.
4. Cultural Change Across the Organisation. For all of the above to be successful on a long term basis there is a need to examine, and where necessary change, the culture in CYC to ensure managers take full responsibility for managing their staff effectively in partnership with HR, making full use of the new IT solutions that will be in place to help them on a day to day basis.

Work in all of these areas is gathering pace and HR staff are working closely with staff in the [Easy@york](#) team.

Health & Safety

The Health & Safety team have been actively rewriting the Safety Management System to provide a set of corporate policies and procedures that set the standards to be implemented across all of CYC's operations to ensure legal compliance. This process has incorporated linking the Risk Assessment process to the Risk Management system currently in use across CYC. This will improve CYC as an effective organization, as this link will enable the senior management team to become fully aware of the health and safety risks faced by the organisation and, importantly, they will also have the professional opinion of the health and safety team as to whether the controls in place for these risks are reasonably practicable and legally compliant.

The crucial stage of the implementation of the Safety Management System is approaching as the team are just in the process of rolling out training on the new system to all relevant staff to enable them to identify what needs to be actioned in their individual areas. The training programme will be running hand in hand with a programme of legal compliance checking where the health and safety professionals will be assessing levels of legal compliance, against a set of KPI's, across all departments of CYC. This information will be reported back and will be used to identify areas that require most assistance to become compliant.

The success or failure of the new safety management system is dependant upon the support from the top of the organisation including councillors , because in order to successfully manage health and safety there requires ownership of the issue at all levels, whilst incorporating health & safety issues into the everyday business processes. It is everyone's job to consider safe working environments, and to ensure that the individual's own actions do not present a danger to others.

Conclusion

I would like, finally, to thank officers at every level for the tremendous effort made over the last few months, and for their commitment to the Council. I would also like to thank officers for the welcome and support I have received over the last nine months. The level of professionalism and enthusiasm I've encountered has been encouraging and I am confident that, although the coming months will bring new challenges, the results will be positive.

Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

Committees / Council bodies

Gambling and Licensing Acts Committee

To appoint Cllr Merrett as the Chair of the Committee, in place of Cllr Sue Galloway

Outside Bodies

Clifton Backies Management Board

To appoint Cllr Watt in place of Cllr Waudby

Inclusive York Forum

To appoint Cllr Looker in place of Cllr Crisp

York Fairtrade City Steering Group

To appoint Cllr Waller, in place of Cllr Reid

Yorkshire and Humber Regional Housing Forum

To appoint Cllr Sue Galloway as substitute

Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee

To appoint Cllr Waller, in place of Cllr Reid

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