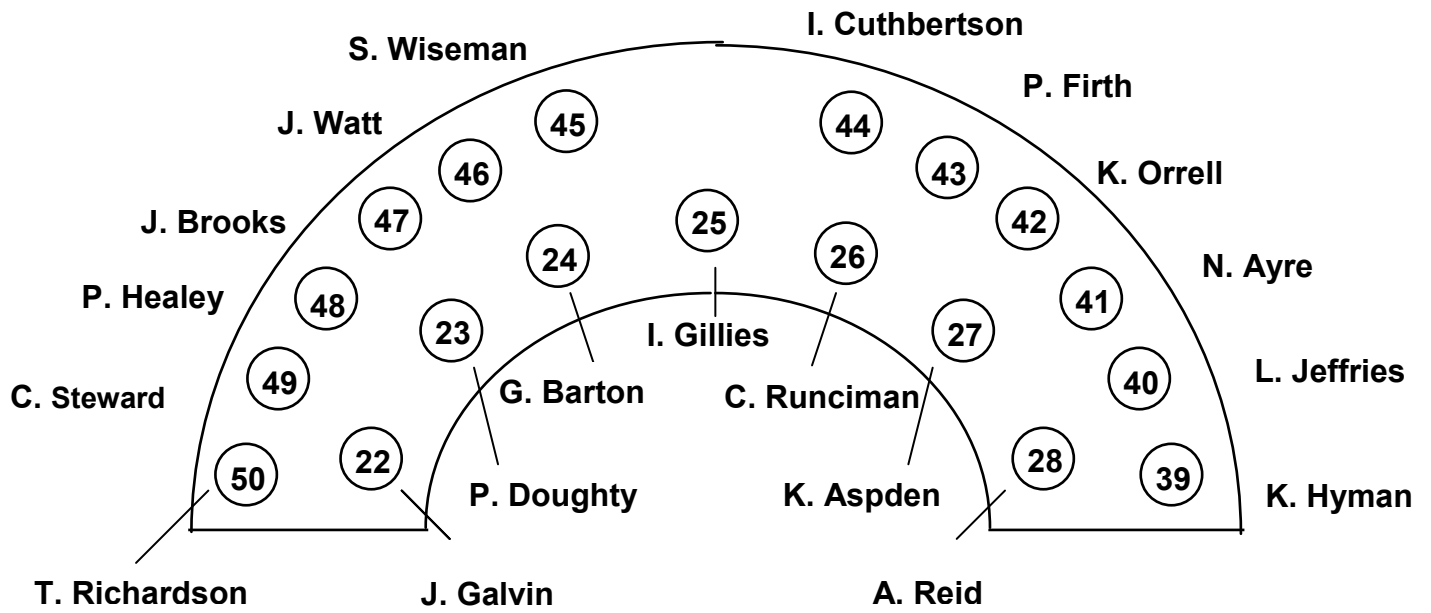


**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL
SUMMONS**

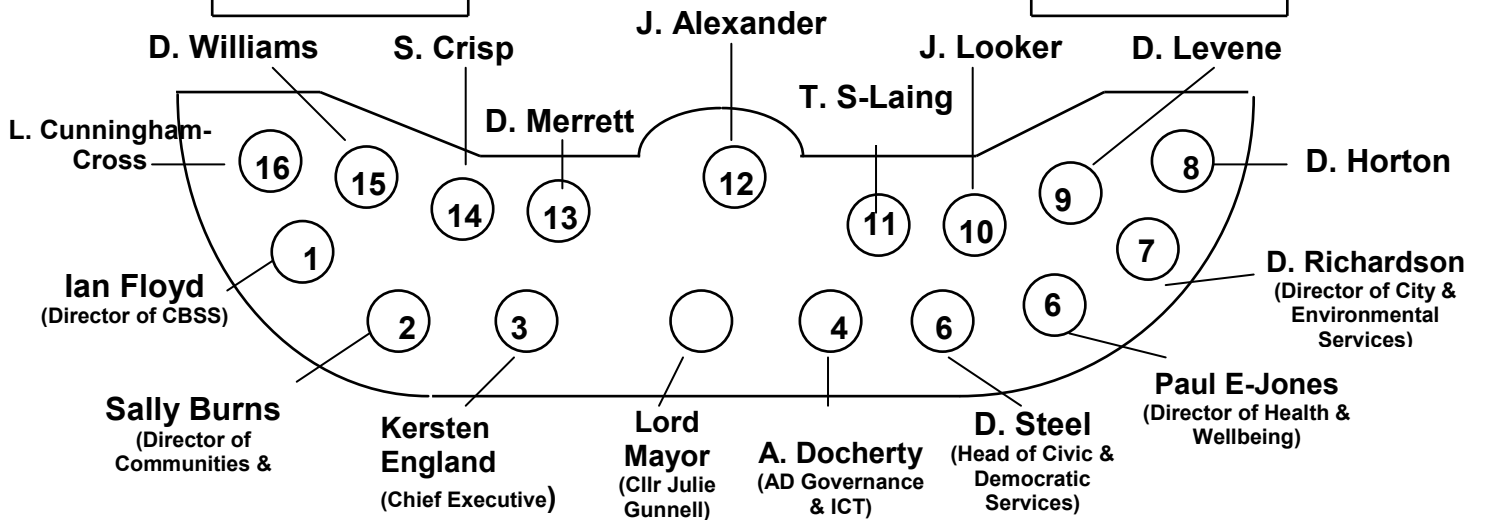
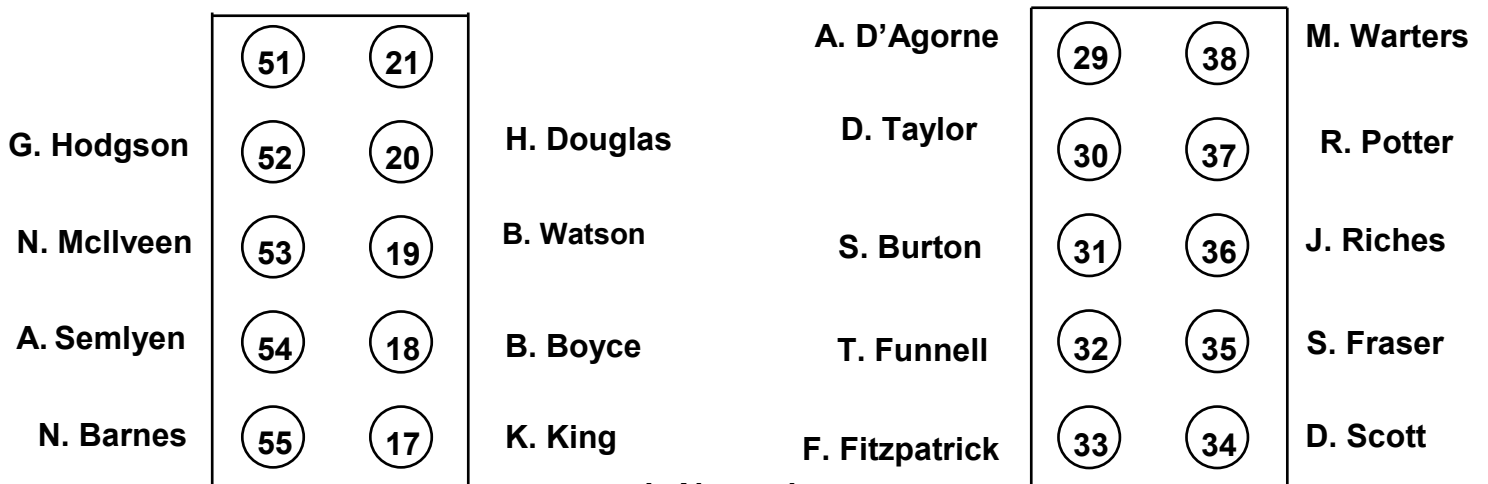
All Councillors, relevant Council Officers and other interested parties and residents are formally invited to attend a meeting of the **City of York Council** at the **The Guildhall, York**, to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Thursday, 12 December 2013 at 6.30 pm

COUNCIL CHAMBER



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A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 62)

To approve and sign the minutes of the last Council meeting held on 10 October 2013.

3. Civic Announcements and Lord Mayor Elect

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

- (a) Invite Council's nomination for the Lord Mayor Elect 2013/14 in line with the Council's Protocol for Nomination of Lord Mayors; and
- (b) Invite Lord Mayor Elect 2013/14 to announce the nominee for Sherriff for 2013/14.

4. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, any member of the public who has registered to address the Council, or to ask a Member of the Council a question, on a matter directly relevant to the business of the Council or the City, may do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Wednesday 11 December 2013.**

To register to speak please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the internet - at the start of the meeting the Lord Mayor will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

Public seating areas will not be filmed by the Council and public participants, who have registered to speak at the meeting, will not be filmed unless their consent has been obtained.

Link to Protocol for Webcasting, Filming and Recording of Council Meetings:

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=437&Mid=8065&Ver=4>

5. Petitions (Pages 63 - 76)

i) To debate the following petitions, signed by over 1,000 people, in accordance with the Council's petitions scheme:

a) Bedroom Tax – signed by 1060 people

The signatories *“petition the Council to:*

- i) Make a commitment not to evict any tenant who falls into arrears as a direct result of the bedroom tax or reduction in council tax discount.*
- ii) Look at reclassifying council owned properties as smaller homes, to ensure rooms not used as bedrooms are not classified as such, and to encourage housing associations in the York area to do the same. For example, an extra room used to store equipment related to a disability should not be classed as a bedroom, or a bedroom that is smaller than the government's minimum space standards.”*

[A background report is attached to the agenda at Annex A]

b) Kings Square – signed by 2130 people

The signatories *“asked the Council for the cobbles and*

cart tracks (including post 1950 reconstruction of history) in York to be kept as a beautiful historic inspiration and an experience of times gone by. Destroy the litigation culture, not our heritage!"

[A background report is attached to the agenda at Annex B]

- ii) To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order No.7. To date, notice has been received of two petitions to be presented by:
- Cllr Barton on behalf of Wheldrake residents asking the Council to stop any further plans to build housing in Zone H28 in Wheldrake as referred to in the York Local Plan.
 - Cllr Taylor on behalf of residents requesting the removal of bollards located at the Campus end of Old Heslington Road.

6. Report of Cabinet Leader and Cabinet Recommendations
(Pages 77 - 94)

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

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Cabinet	5 November 2013	Minute 68: Capital Programme – Monitor Two 2013/14 Minute 69: Travellers Site Provision – Extension of Osbaldwick Site http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Clc=733&MId=7642&Ver=4
Cabinet	3 December 2013	Minute 81: Consultation Response regarding

Combined Authority

Minute 82: Improving Public
Convenience Facilities
across the City

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=7643&Ver=4>

7. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (Pages 95 - 98)

To receive a report from Councillor Galvin, the Chair of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) on the work of scrutiny since the last update to Council.

8. Report of Cabinet Member (Pages 99 - 108)

To receive a written report from the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism, and to question the Cabinet Member thereon, provided any such questions are registered in accordance with the timescales and procedures set out in Standing Order 8.2.1.

9. Recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee
(Pages 109 - 120)

To consider the following recommendations for approval from the Audit and Governance Committee:

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Audit and Governance Committee	6 November 2013	Minute 42: Review of the Petitions Scheme <i>(copy of report attached)</i>
Audit and Governance Committee	11 December 2013	Minute: Public Participation Scheme <i>(Recommendations of A&G to follow. Copy report attached for information)</i>

10. 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://democracy.york.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=12959&path=0>

Copies may also be obtained by contacting Democracy Support Group at West Offices, Station Rise, York (tel. 01904 551088)

- Quality Bus Partnership – 11 September 2013
- Fire Authority – 25 September 2013
- Safer York Partnerships – 7 October 2013
- Without Walls – 25 September 2013
- Local Government North Yorkshire & York – 12 July 2013 & 4 October 2013

Members are invited to put any questions to the Council's representatives on the above bodies, in accordance with Standing Order 11.2.

11. Appointments and Changes to Membership (Pages 121 - 122)

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

12. Notices of Motion

To consider the following Notices of Motion under Standing Order 12:

A – Motions referred from the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 12.1(a)

None

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

(i) From Cllr Burton

“Council notes the reduction in rights at work under the Conservative Liberal Democrat Government and the subsequent rise in the use of 'zero hour contracts'.

Council believes rights of people at work are extremely important and that zero hour contracts undermine these rights.

Council calls upon Cabinet to ensure that, so far as is consistent with the law, the Council’s procurement activity promotes good employment practice and does not permit the exploitative use of zero hours contracts.”

(ii) From Cllr Watt

“This Council has no confidence in the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services and calls upon her to resign. The Cabinet member is called upon to resign because of her failure to deliver the ‘Affordable Housing’ that York needs and her consistent action over many years to support and implement housing policies that could only curtail or prevent the construction of new Affordable Homes.”

(iii) From Cllr Aspden

“Save our Pubs

Council Notes:

Well-run pubs play an invaluable role at the heart of our local communities, providing safe, regulated and sociable environments in which people can interact whilst enjoying a drink responsibly.

The New Economics Foundation estimates that 10.2% of money spent in supermarkets is retained locally compared to 20.6% of money spent in pubs.

The decline of community pubs in recent years means 26 pubs

are closing every week across the UK (CAMRA, 2013), as the use of pub properties for other means has become increasingly financially lucrative.

York currently has a successful pub and beer scene, as highlighted by CAMRA'S 2014 Good Beer Guide, but it is not immune from economic and legislative pressures.

The new National Planning Policy Framework and the Localism Act 2011 establish new responsibilities and tools for local councils to promote and protect local pubs. However, the flexibility for a pub to be converted into a wide range of uses without planning permission still means local communities are often denied a say in what's happening in their neighbourhoods and are unable to protect valued local pubs.

Council Supports:

Efforts by CAMRA and Liberal Democrat MP Greg Mulholland to lobby government and campaign to put local pubs back at the heart of our communities.

The decision by the Coalition Government in March to axe the beer duty escalator and introduce a 1p cut in beer duty - the first time beer duty has been cut since 1959.

Council Resolves to:

Support community groups who wish to register their local pubs as Assets of Community Value;

Submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act calling on the Government to help protect community pubs in England by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished;

Investigate the use of CAMRA's Public House Viability Test as a tool when considering planning applications involving pubs;

Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon George Osborne MP, urging him to freeze beer duty in next year's Budget."

(iv) From Cllr Barnes

“Council notes the considerable social and economic contribution students give to York.

Council notes the Liberal Democrats reneging on their 'no tuition fees' manifesto pledge to agree with Conservatives to triple tuition fees to £9,000 a year.

Council believes the Conservative Liberal Democrat Government privatising £890m of student debt (1990 and 1998) through selling to private companies for under one-fifth of its value, as well as considering cutting £350m (around a quarter) from Student Grants affecting 500,000 students, is economically illiterate and immoral.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write on behalf of the council to both the Minister of State for Universities and Science, David Willetts, and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Vince Cable expressing concern at the future sales of student debt and seeking a guarantee this Conservative Liberal Democrat policy will not lead to an increase in the interest rate graduates are currently paying. Furthermore Council seeks written assurances Students Grants will not be cut.”

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

To deal with the following questions to the Cabinet Leader and / or other Cabinet Members, in accordance with Standing Order 11.3(a):

(i) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Barton:

“Can the Leader inform Council how much of the Governments £3.3 billion funding to mitigate the impact of localised tax support scheme in 2014/15 will be allocated to CYC and at what point will Parish Councils be informed how much of it will be passed on to them?”

(ii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Runciman:

“Is the Cabinet Leader still intending to hold a public meeting in

each ward as part of his “community conversations” initiative and if so could he provide a timetable?”

(iii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Aspden:

“Will the Cabinet Leader provide the footfall numbers recorded each day in the city-centre since his last report to Council?”

(iv) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Reid:

“On 10th November the Council Leader was quoted in *The Press* saying that the British Sugar development would “feature a large supermarket, bringing more jobs”. How big will this supermarket be and why did it not feature in the consultation exhibitions and online surveys undertaken with affected residents at the end of November?”

(v) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Reid:

“How much taxpayers’ money has been spent on supporting the local TV License application by “The York Channel” and what financial and other Council resources do you expect to be used to help in the development of this station?”

(vi) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Reid:

“What consultation has there been with residents living in the Wilton Rise and Cleveland Street areas on the proposal to build a bridge into the York Central development site?”

(vii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Reid:

“The Council Leader has announced that a bridge into the York Central development site in the Chancery Rise area will receive £10 million of Council funding. Will the Leader confirm that the Council will have a stake in any development company which takes the York Central development forward and that York taxpayers will benefit directly from any increase in the value of the newly serviced site?”

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

“Can the Cabinet Member assure Council that he takes seriously his role as the only voting member of our two man delegation to the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation Management Committee bearing in mind he has yet to attend any meetings or even send his apologies?”

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

“What costs have the Council incurred through its membership of the Local Government Association and how much of this is due to councillor expenses?”

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

“What is the cost of sending members to meetings being held outside the UK including those connected with the Council of Europe and how much is City of York Council contributing towards this sum?”

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

“How many complaints, forwarded to the York Council Contact centre over the last 6 months via web based reporting tools (such as “My Council”, “report that hole”, “report that pothole” etc), have been successfully recorded and actioned and how many reports have been discarded because of data translation problems?”

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

“Following complaints and comments from the Information Commissioner a new FOI system has been put in place. Can the Cabinet Member outline what the new system is and whether this has led to any improvement?”

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

“What are the total costs expected to be for holding the Budget consultation meetings which started on November 13th?”

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

“How many officer hours have been spent in total at the Budget consultation venues?”

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

“How many members of the public have attended each Budget consultation meeting so far?”

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

“Could the Cabinet Member provide a list of all grants given to organisations and voluntary groups in 2012/13?”

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

“After the Cabinet’s decision to reject the Government’s transitional grant and cut council tax support to residents by 30% from this April, could the Cabinet Member confirm how many residents have been affected and if any liability orders have been issued?”

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

“On the Lendal Bridge/Coppergate restrictions could the Cabinet

Member confirm the following figures:

- a) The number of appeals lodged each week since the beginning of August against PCNs issued for contraventions of traffic restrictions on Coppergate and Lendal Bridge
- b) The number of appeals which have been successful each week
- c) The total revenue that the Council has received so far from PCNs following the introduction of the new restrictions on Coppergate and Lendal Bridge
- d) The weekly changes to journey times (all modes of transport) on each arterial road and on each section of the inner ring road since the introduction of the new traffic restrictions
- e) The numbers of accidents reported on roads in the City centre comparing the last 3 months with the equivalent period in 2012
- f) The latest air quality monitoring reports for key sites in and close to the City centre, including the Leeman Road area, and comparing these with last year?"

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

"In the first three months of the closure period on Lendal Bridge, what have been the average increases in:

- a) Mileage
- b) Journey time
- c) Cost

for private car drivers who otherwise would have used the bridge?"

(xx) To the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability from Cllr Orrell:

"What is the proposed timetable for the consideration of residents' responses to the consultation on the Draft Local Plan

and how will the large number of residents, who have made written responses, have the opportunity to address the LDF Working Group if they wish to do so?”

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

“In July the Cabinet Member said in relation to traffic cameras *“Staff are now in the final stages of commissioning this new system and are finalising the list of which cameras will be presented on the website. This process should be completed within the next week and then live images will once again be available via YorkLIVE and i-travel”*. At the last meeting he confirmed that the work was still ongoing. Could he confirm that the technical difficulties have now been overcome and that residents can now view the images on line?”

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

“Could the Cabinet Member confirm how long the i-Travel map function was unavailable for and if residents are able to use it again?”

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

“What progress has the Cabinet Member made in furtherance of his assurances, given at previous Council meetings, that bus reliability monitoring information will be made available for York residents?”

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

“Can the cabinet member demonstrate he understands the difference between success criteria and merely stating what data will be collected?”

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

“By what will the cabinet member deem the trial closure of Lendal Bridge a failure?”

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

“Can the cabinet member detail any tangible progress made in dualling York’s Northern Ring Road since cabinet announced their support for Julian Sturdy and York Conservative Group’s campaign?”

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

“Given the need to radically improve recycling rates could the Cabinet Member please list the programme and projects currently in place to improve recycling including costs and expected benefits?”

(xxviii) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Aspden:

“How many of the salt bins, originally proposed by the present administration to be removed, have been saved and taken over by:

- a) Parish Councils
- b) Residents Associations
- c) Individual residents

and how many of the salt bins on the streets last winter have not been ‘adopted’?”

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

“Has the Cabinet Member signed-up to be a snow warden

scheme and could he confirm how many York residents have also become snow wardens and how does this figure compare with the same time last year?”

(xxx) To the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services from Cllr Ayre:

“Can the Cabinet Member confirm what the council’s policy is regarding requiring supermarkets and takeaways to provide bins and clear detritus from their shop fronts and which establishments the policy applies to?”

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

“A Freedom of Information request has revealed that, at present, the only income that the Council has identified from the Tour de France is an assumed £291,000 government grant to offset the expected £2.7 million costs. When does the Cabinet member expect to announce the amount of other local revenue that will be generated for the authority and how much does she anticipate will be available to discharge the motion, successfully proposed by Cllr Burton at the last Council meeting, which promised “*that all income generated for City of York Council from the Tour de France Grand Départ is spent on frontline services for residents*”?”

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

“For this financial year and last can the Cabinet Member supply for Parliament Street and St Sampson’s Square: a) dates on which events occurred, name of event, and income to the council b) the cost to the council for these events c) the proposed timetable for the next 12 months?”

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

“What proportion of the 22,000 additional homes that the Cabinet Member feels should be built during the next 15 years under Labour’s Local Plan proposals, does she believe will be occupied by York residents and their families and how many by inward migration?”

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

“Who took the decision, and when, to remove 2400 applicants from the Housing Waiting list (Home Choice) with effect from the beginning of October?”

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

“Does the decision to remove 2400 applicants from the Housing Waiting list, which means there are now officially fewer residents in housing need, mean there will be lower affordable house building targets?”

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

“Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the 184 residents with ‘moderate’ care needs who lost their eligibility for support from the council’s community care service last year – particularly in regards to how many are now in the “substantial” or “critical” care categories?”

xxxvii) To the Cabinet Member for Crime and Stronger Communities from Cllr Aspden:

“Will the Cabinet Member take on board the concerns raised by the chairs of both Foxwood and Chapelfields Community Centres

and reconsider planned funding cuts?”

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

“Can the Cabinet Member confirm that when the Community Library Trust is formed, the positions of Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Senior Officers will be filled as a result of a trawl to be made available to possible applicants from outside of the Council’s employ?”

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

“Can the Cabinet Member assure Council that no further members of the existing Library staff will be made redundant in anticipation of the formation of the Community Library Trust?”

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

Can the Cabinet Member outline what, in this continuing time of austerity, other vanity projects such as the Arts Barge are under consideration?”

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

“Can the Cabinet Member inform Council of the projected date of the grand opening of the Community Stadium and the proposals for the occasion”

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

“Does the Cabinet Member stand by her statement that York City Knights will not be financially worse off by moving to the new Community Stadium?”

(xliii) To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism from Cllr Barton:

“What is the Cabinet Members reaction to the news that the Athletics Club will not be sharing the facilities of the Sports Village?”

14. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer for this meeting:

Name: Jill Pickering

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 552061
- E-mail – jill.pickering@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services 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 The Guildhall, York on Thursday, 10th October, 2013, starting at 6.30 pm

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

ACOMB WARD

Horton
Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Galvin

CLIFTON WARD

Douglas
King
Scott

DERWENT WARD**DRINGHOUSES &
WOODTHORPE WARD**

Hodgson
Reid
Semlyen

FISHERGATE WARD

D'Agorne
Taylor

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker
Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Cuthbertson
Firth
Richardson

HESLINGTON WARD

Levene

HEWORTH WARD

Funnell

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Crisp
Riches

HULL ROAD WARD

Barnes
Fitzpatrick

HUNTINGTON & NEW
EARSWICK WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Warters

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Steward

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE &
CLIFTON WITHOUT WARD

Cunningham-Cross
McIlveen
Watt

STRENSALL WARD

Doughty
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Jeffries
Burton
Williams

WHELDRAKE WARD

Barton

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

31. Declarations of Interest

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

The following **personal** interests were declared:

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

32. Minutes

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

33. Civic Announcements

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

34. Public Participation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35. **Petitions**

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

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

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

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

- Dunnington Parish Council
1323 signatures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. Petitions Presented Under Standing Order 7

Under Standing Order 7, petitions were presented by:

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

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

Action Required

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

36. Report of Cabinet Leader and Cabinet Recommendations

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

A Questions

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

(i) From Cllr Warters

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

The Leader replied:

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

(ii) From Cllr Warters

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

The Leader replied:

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

(iii) From Cllr Reid

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

The Leader replied:

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

(iv) From Cllr Ayre

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

The Leader replied:

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

(v) From Cllr Aspden

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

The Leader replied:

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

(vi) From Cllr Reid

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

Reply:

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

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

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

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

(vii) From Cllr Reid

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

Reply:

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

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

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

(viii) From Cllr Healey

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

Reply:

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

(ix) From Cllr Aspden

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

Reply:

“Everybody is entitled to their view.”

(x) From Cllr Healey

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

Reply:

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

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

B Cabinet Recommendations

Capital Programme – Monitor One 2013/14

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

[That Council] agree to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Action Required

1. Make necessary adjustments to the Capital Programme.

RB, DM

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

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

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

Resolved: That the scrutiny report be received and noted.

38. Report of Cabinet Member

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

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

(i) From Cllr Ayre

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

Cabinet Member replied:

Answered in the meeting.

(ii) From Cllr Gillies

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

Cabinet Member replied:

Answered in the meeting.

(iii) From Cllr Cuthbertson

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

Cabinet Member replied:

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

(iv) From Cllr Healey

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

Cabinet Member replied:

Answered in the meeting.

(v) From Cllr Runciman

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

Cabinet Member replied:

Answered in the meeting.

(vi) From Cllr Gillies

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

Reply:

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

(vii) From Cllr Cuthbertson

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

Reply:

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

(viii) From Cllr Healey

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

Reply:

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

(ix) From Cllr Ayre

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

Reply:

“Yes.”

(x) From Cllr Ayre

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

Reply:

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

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

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

(xi) From Cllr Ayre

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

Reply:

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

(xii) From Cllr Ayre

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

Reply:

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

39. Recommendations of the Joint Standards Committee

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

Planning Code of Good Practice

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

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

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

Action Required

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

40. Recommendations of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee

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

Draft Annual Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report for 2012/13

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

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

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

41. Recommendations of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee

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

Changes To The Terms And Conditions Of Chief Officers

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

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

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

The above recommendation was declared CARRIED.

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

Action Required

1. Proceed with implementation of policy. MB

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

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

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

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

Action Required

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

43. Activities of Outside Bodies

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

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

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

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

From Cllr D'Agorne:

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

Cllr Merrett replied:

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

44. Notices of Motion

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

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

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

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

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

Council therefore resolves:

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

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

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

Insert additional final resolution as follows:

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

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

The motion, as amended, now reads as follows:

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

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

Council therefore resolves:

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

Second amendment proposed by Councillor Aspden as follows:

“Insert new second paragraph as follows:

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

The amendment was declared LOST.

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

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

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

“Council notes:

That England is now widely recognised to be the country with the most centralised system of government in Europe;

That devolution has brought decisions about tax and spending and the quality of public services closer to voters in Scotland

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

Council believes:

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

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

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

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

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

therefore

Council Resolves To;

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

Amendment proposed by Cllr Alexander as follows:

“Insert new second paragraph as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The motion, as amended, now reads as follows:

“Council notes:

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

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

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

Council believes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Council notes:

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

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

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

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

Council believes:

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

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

Council calls on Cabinet to:

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

First amendment proposed by Cllr Barton as follows:

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

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

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

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

The amendment was declared LOST.

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

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

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

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

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

Delete third paragraph.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved: That the motion be not approved.

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

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

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

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

First amendment proposed by Cllr D’Agorne as follows:

Delete final paragraph and **replace** with:

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

Insert an additional final paragraph as follows:

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

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

The second amendment was proposed by Cllr Hyman as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved: That the motion be approved. ³.

Action Required

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

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

Forty three questions had been submitted to the Cabinet Leader and Cabinet Members under Standing Order 11.3(a). The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written answers to their questions, as set out below:

(i) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr D'Agorne:

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

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

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

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

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

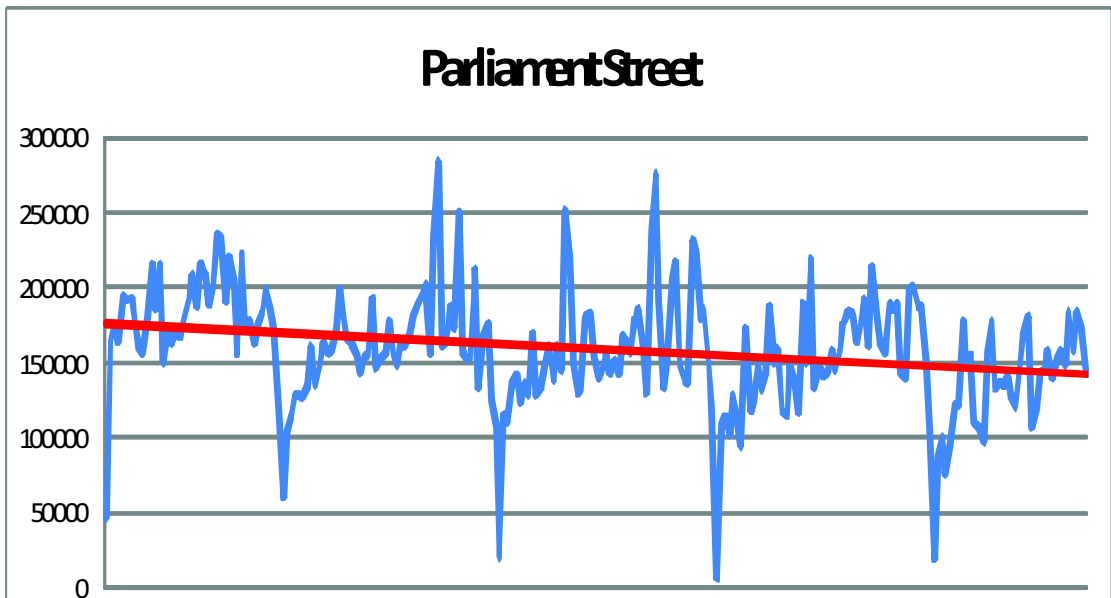
Members may have seen the good news that the community-run Golden Ball public house has just indicated it will also pay the Living Wage, so I hope many other businesses of all sizes will follow suit."

(ii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Aspden:

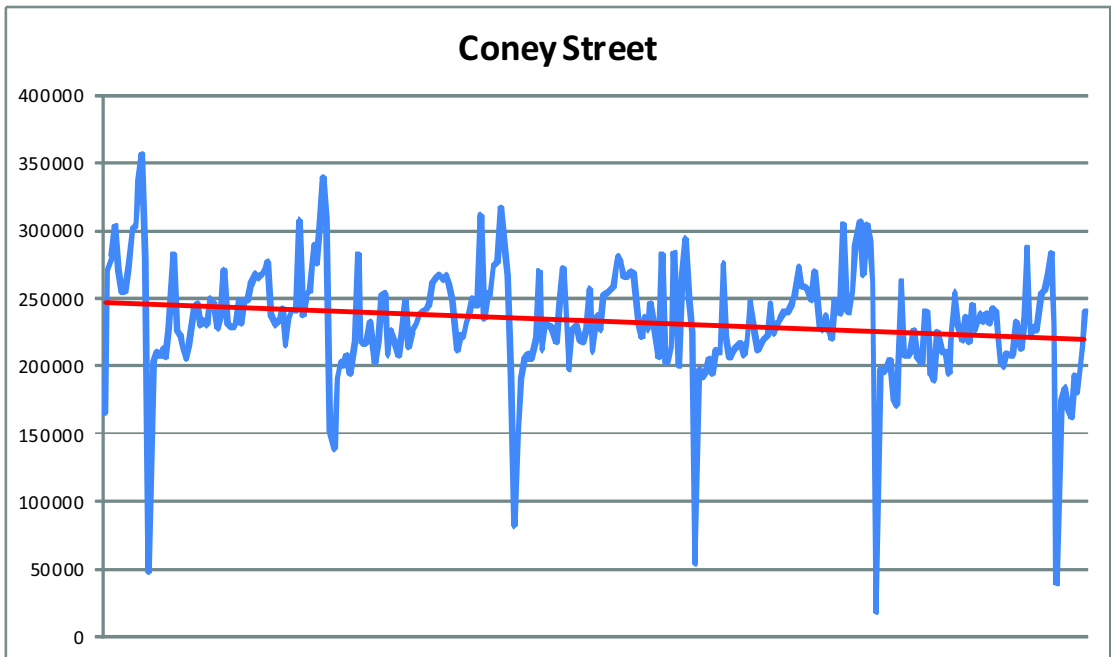
"What are the daily results for the city-centre footfall cameras (Parliament Street and Coney Street) since the beginning of August and how do they compare to the same period last year?"

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

Parliament Street: 2009 to 2013



Coney Street: 2007 to 2013



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

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

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

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

(iii) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Ayre:

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

“Free wi-fi hot spots are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(iv) To the Cabinet Leader from Cllr Ayre:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Smarteryork and Operators info 2011

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

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

Smarteryork and Operators info 2013

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

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

Average time to answer 54 secs 1min 59 1min 20 2min 44 1min 25 1min 40 sec

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The changes were implemented from the following dates:

- * *w/c 26th August publications re changes were issued and bins stickered*
- * *w/c 9th September go live*

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

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

Smarteryork and Operators info 2011						
01904 551550 - Switchboard	15-Aug	22-Aug	29-Aug	05-Sep	12-Sep	Average
Calls Offered	2980	2932	1859	1921	1752	2288.8
Calls Answered	2478	2666	1532	1449	1411	1907.2
% Answered	83.2	90.9	82.4	75.4	80.5	82.48
Ave time to answer	36 secs	20 secs	30 secs	37 secs	26 secs	30 secs

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

Smarteryork and Operators info 2013						
01904 551550 Switchboard	19-Aug	26-Aug	02-Sep	09-Sep	16-Sep	Average
Calls Offered	2167	2256	2419	2591	1569	2200.4
Calls Answered	2084	1865	2293	2262	1382	1977.2
% Answered	96	83	95	87	88	89.8
Ave time to answer	15 secs	53 secs	20 secs	38 secs	35 secs	32.2 secs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The current breakdown of known casuals are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

“To be confirmed.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A project log to confirm this is available on request.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lendal

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

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

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

TOTAL 5456

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Coppergate

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

19-25 August - 1741 PCNs issued

26-01 Sept - 880 PCNs issued

02-08 Sept - 850 PCNs issued

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

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

TOTAL 5721

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further details and explanation can be found here:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Contributions were made as follows:

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

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

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

Cllr Julie Gunnell

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

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



Council

12th December 2013

Report of the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Care

Response to Petition to Protect Council House Tenants from Eviction

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members that on the 27th November 2013 the council received a petition with over 1,000 signatures on the subject of the spare room subsidy and reduction in council tax discount. The report summarises the petition and provides a factual response.

Petition

2. The petition 'Calls on City of York Council not to evict any tenants who cannot pay as a result of the bedroom tax or reduction in council tax discount'. It goes on to request that the council:
 - a) Make a commitment not to evict any tenant who falls into arrears as a result of the bedroom tax or reduction in council tax discount;
 - b) Look at reclassifying council owned properties as smaller homes, to ensure rooms not used as bedrooms are not classified as such and to encourage housing associations in York area to do the same. For example, an extra room used to store equipment related to a disability should not be classed as a bedroom, or a bedroom that is smaller than the government's minimum space standards.

Response

3. City of York Council has on a number of occasions clearly set out its approach to supporting those tenants who are affected by the spare room subsidy / benefit cap. For clarity this is set out below:

- Any tenant falling into rent arrears (no tenant would be evicted for council tax arrears) because of financial hardship will be offered help and support to enable them to remain in their home and pay the rent or move voluntarily if they wish to do so.
 - Eviction has been, and will remain a last resort. For clarity the City of York Council can only apply to the County Court for an eviction. A Judge will decide on the individual merits of the case whether it is reasonable to evict or not and a tenant has the opportunity to arrange representation at any court hearing.
4. To date no tenant affected by the spare room subsidy / benefit cap has been evicted and no court orders have been granted against customers for non payment of rent arrears either wholly or partially attributable to the spare room subsidy/ benefit cap.
5. To mitigate against the impact of the spare room subsidy and other welfare reforms the council:
- Is part of the North Yorkshire Home Choice scheme which allows customers to bid for available appropriately sized homes across most of North Yorkshire.
 - Has introduced a discretionary element to the direct exchange policy, allowing anyone suffering financial or social hardship the chance to move using this route where previously they would often be denied. There has been a big increase in the number of tenants using this method to move home over the last year.
 - Each tenant affected by the spare room subsidy is offered a package of advice and options to help them deal with the effects of the spare room subsidy and other welfare reform changes.
 - Where specialist (debt, training & employment, health, legal etc) help is needed tenants are referred to other appropriate agencies our organisations work together with the tenant.
 - Customers are actively encouraged to apply for Discretionary Housing payments and helped to apply where needed. Many of our tenants have done this successfully which allows breathing space to work on longer term solutions.
 - City of York Council have received extra money this financial year to directly help customers affected by the spare room subsidy and the shortfalls due to the local housing allowance across the city.
 - A pot of money is also available to help with the costs associated with moving where tenants are moving to smaller homes.

6. With regard to the issue of re-designating rooms the council will consider re-designating any room originally intended as a bedroom that is below 50 square feet. Five properties have so far had bedrooms re-designated and the rents altered accordingly. Housing and the Benefits department work together to ensure that where customers need the use of other rooms for reasons of health or disability this is considered within the existing Housing Benefit rules and exemptions are applied. Tenants will also be advised to apply for Discretionary Housing Payments and help provided to do this. The case-law in this area is developing over time and we will continue to review our position in light of this should it be needed.
7. There is clear guidance that the council cannot re designate homes merely because a tenant does not require the additional room.
8. City of York Council facilitates a partners group of senior officers representing organisations that have housing stock in the York area. It also facilitates a Welfare Reform forum which is attended by housing organisations, CAB and other relevant organisations. Approaches to helping tenants with the welfare reforms, information on current impacts and legislation as well as housing issues generally are discussed and a common approach is encouraged. That common approach is currently about making best use of the existing stock, supporting customers to maximise their income, cover their costs and opening up opportunities for them to thrive within healthy and active communities.

Options

9. This is primarily an information report, requiring no decision from Council.

Corporate Priorities

10. The detail outlined above accords with the priorities established in the Council Plan. Providing support and advice to those effected by the welfare reforms is contributing to the Council Plan priority to protect vulnerable people, enabling individuals to remain in their homes and communities also ensures stability and enables individuals to continue to play an active role in their communities.

Implications

11. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

12. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no significant risks

Recommendations

13. This report is to inform members of the petition with over 1000 signatures on the subject of spare room subsidy and council tax discount and no recommendation is required.

Contact Details

Authors:

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Steve Waddington
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Community Safety

Cabinet Member Responsible for the Report:

Cllr Tracy Simpson-Laing
Cabinet Member for Health, Housing
and Adult Social Care

Report
Approved



Date 4th Nov 2013

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

N/A

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None



Council

12th December 2013

Report of the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability

Reinvigorate York, Kings Square Improvement Project: Petition

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of a petition with over 1,000 signatures submitted to the Council on the subject of the Kings Square improvement project, which is part of the Reinvigorate York initiative. The report describes the nature of Reinvigorate York and the Kings Square project. It then summarises the petition and provides some background to the petition as an informative

Reinvigorate York

2. The Reinvigorate York initiative is part of a wider programme of work being developed to create a world class, diverse and dynamic city centre. Reinvigorate York aims to improve the public open spaces and movement in the city centre with the following objectives in mind:
 - Reinvigorating the city centre economy.
 - Increasing footfall in the city centre.
 - Improving the overall quality of life for residents.
 - Increasing the sense of York as a special place.
 - Maintaining York as a top tourist destination.
3. The six city centre improvement projects are:-
 - Parliament Street (including Piccadilly/ Coppergate junction)
 - King's Square
 - Exhibition Square/ St. Leonard's Place/ Bootham Bar
 - Fossgate/ Pavement
 - Duncombe Place/ Blake Street
 - Micklegate
4. In addition to the project sites there are a number of wider city centre improvement programmes such as improved street furniture, lighting and wayfinding.

5. On 4 September 2012 Cabinet approved investing £3,300,000 in the Reinivograte York programme.

Kings Square Improvement Project

6. Kings Square is the first project site of the programme. Please refer to annex 1 for a proposed site plan. Phase 1 started on site in September 2013. Phase 1 included work to the main central area and the carriageway known as Kings Court. This is now complete and there is a break in construction to accommodate Christmas trading and winter. Phase 2 will complete the project by resurfacing the carriageway and refurbishing the raised area. It will commence in March 2014 and will be complete before the end of June before the Tour de France in July. Please refer to annex 2 for a proposed phasing plan.

The Petition

7. The petition is titled “Keep The Cobbles”
8. It has 2130 signatures
9. It states: “I the undersigned, wish for the cobbles & cart tracks (including post 1950 reconstructions of history) in York to be kept as a beautiful historic inspiration and experience of times gone by. Destroy the litigation culture not our heritage.”

Background to the Petition

10. The architect leading the project, met the petitioner on site on 23rd September 2013. The central concerns of the petitioner as understood by this officer are highlighted below and subsequent paragraphs explain the context to these issues:
 - The wish to keep the square as it was with a traditional look, although it was accepted by the petitioner that the current layout was neither historically authentic or old (having been laid down in the 1970s).
 - The wish not to have smooth surfaces.
 - The wish not to spend money.
 - The feeling that people were unheard and poorly informed about the proposals.
11. The layout and materials of Kings Square prior to the Reinivograte York project: Research in the photographic records show that the

square in the late 19th century was occupied by a church and surrounding the building were stone pavements and a carriageway in stone setts, without cart tracks. The church was demolished in around 1937 and since then the square has had a number of layouts including all tarmac roads in the 1960s. In around 1975 a repaving scheme laid granite features to look like “cart tracks” and stone setts in the carriageway known as Kings Court (next to what is now “York chocolate Story” building). Refer to annex 3 for a number of photographs.

12. The new layout and repaving materials: The proposed layout is quite similar to the one of the 1970s with Kings Court maintained as a carriageway feature (refer to annex 1), although the surface is continuous throughout the square with no step down off the kerb into a carriageway. Surface materials have changed slightly: Where stone setts and cart tracks in the southern end of Kings Court were missing and damaged they were reinstated. In the main section of Kings Court stone setts and the granite feature “cart tracks” were replaced with granite setts. All other materials in the square are either granite (setts, kerbs and guidance/blister/hazard warning paving) or new sawn yorkstone (setts and paving slabs)
13. Smooth Surfaces: The petition is titled “Keep the Cobbles”. For the purposes of definition, “cobble” are naturally shaped small rounded stones- normally either from river beds or glacial moraine deposits. They were traditionally used as a form of carriageway construction. No cobbles have been removed from Kings Square as a result of this project. The stone removed were stone setts (mostly hard sandstone) that were machine cut in the 1970s. They could possibly have been laid as “tumbled” which is to artificially introduce wear by tumbling in a machine. They have also been worn over the decades since being laid.
This project has designed Kings Square to have a smoother surface for a number of reasons. The petition implies that it is to avoid litigation. This is a very incomplete impression. City of York Council commissioned an external consultant to audit the city centre and make recommendations to improve the accessibility for all users (*York City Centre Access and Mobility Audit September 2012*). A diverse range of groups that had mobility issues gave evidence of experiencing difficulties with damaged and uneven surfaces; most of these were people on foot. The audit strongly recommended to avoid building surfaces that were uneven and to rectify damaged surfaces. Both of these were aspirations of the Kings Square project. In addition to this, Kings Square has been relaid as a much stronger

surface which is aided by utilising uniform shaped stone incorporating small joint widths- something not practical with old uneven stones of varying quality.

14. Investment: The investment has been agreed by Cabinet for the whole programme on 4 September 2012. The final details of Kings Square design scheme were agreed by Cabinet on 2nd April 2012
15. Consultation: A significant programme of public consultation has been undergone for the Kings Square project. The main public consultation ran 04th -25th Feb 2013, but before then there were a number of public and stakeholder informative and feedback events. Public consultation made it clear that the square was going to be comprehensively repaved in new natural materials that removed uneven surfaces. The findings of the consultation were reported to Cabinet on 2nd April 2013. Please refer to annex 4 for details.

Options

16. This is primarily an information report, requiring no decision from Council.

Council Plan

17. The option outlined above accords with the following priorities from the Council Plan:
 - Create jobs and grow the economy
 - Get York moving
 - Build strong communities
 - Protect the environment

Implications

18. The following implications have been assessed.
 - **Financial** – *None*
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – *None*
 - **Equalities** – *The design work has been founded on the recommendations of a York city centre audit by Centre for Accessible Environments, titled “York City Centre Access and Mobility Audit September 2012”*
 - **Legal** – *None*

- **Crime and Disorder** - *None*
- **Information Technology (IT)** - *None*
- **Property** - *None*
- **Other – Health & Safety:** *A road scheme Safety Audit has been carried out at design stage*

Risk Management

19. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, the main risks of this project are:

- Reputational risk of a project not fulfilling the objectives of the project brief.
- Physical, Reputational & Financial risks arising from failure to comply with the laws and regulations relating to the design of public spaces.
- Financial risks associated with potential overspend.
- Reputational risks associated with disruption to local businesses during the construction period.

12. Measured in terms of impact and likelihood, together with mitigation, the risks associated with this report have been assessed as medium requiring monitoring.

Recommendations

13. This report is to inform members of the petitions over 1000 signatures on the subject of Kings Square and no recommendation is required.

Contact Details

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Cabinet Member Responsible for the Report:

Cllr Dave Merrett
Cabinet Member for Planning,
Transport and Sustainability

**Report
Approved**



Date 4/12/13

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

N/A

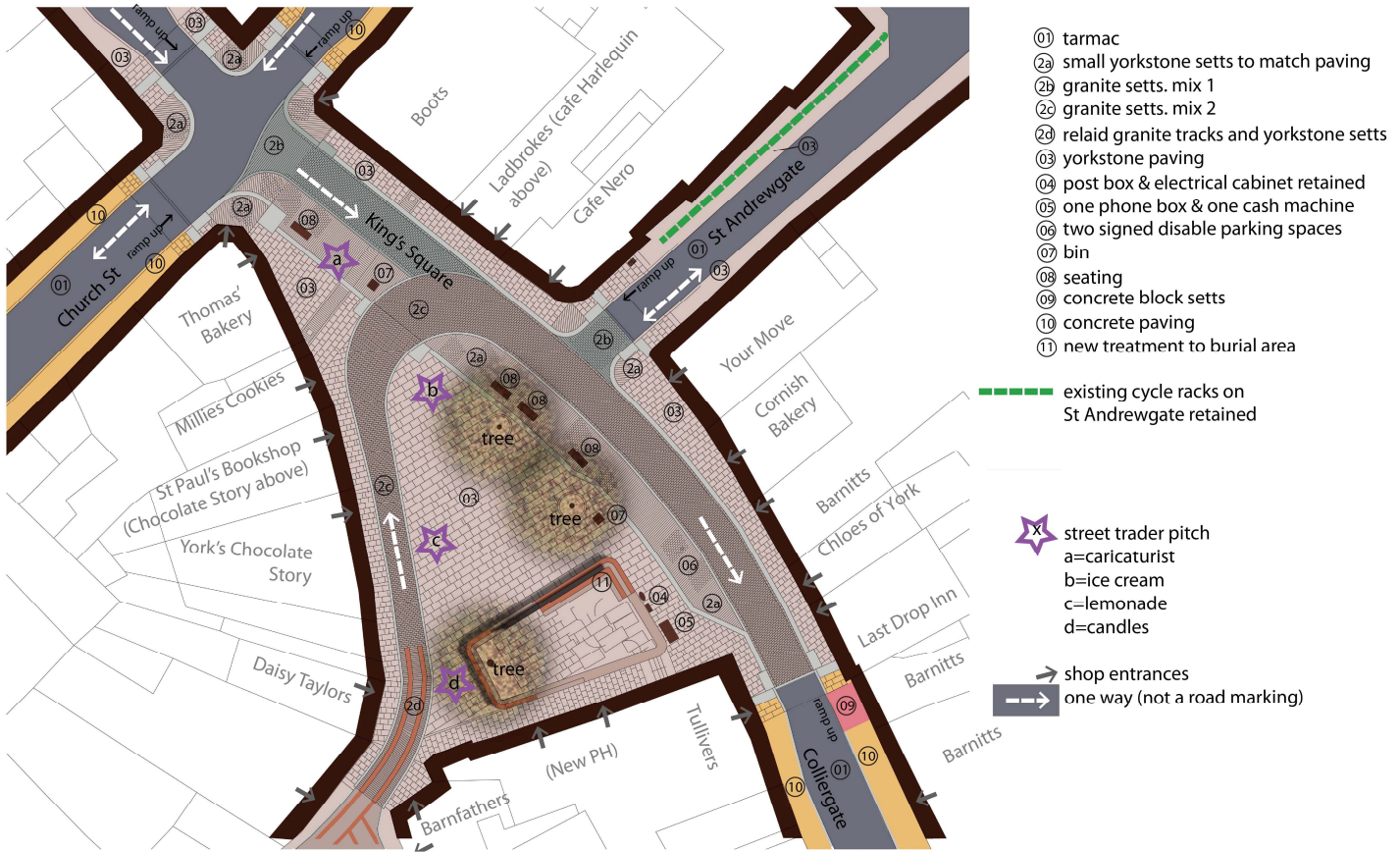
Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

For further information please contact the author of the report

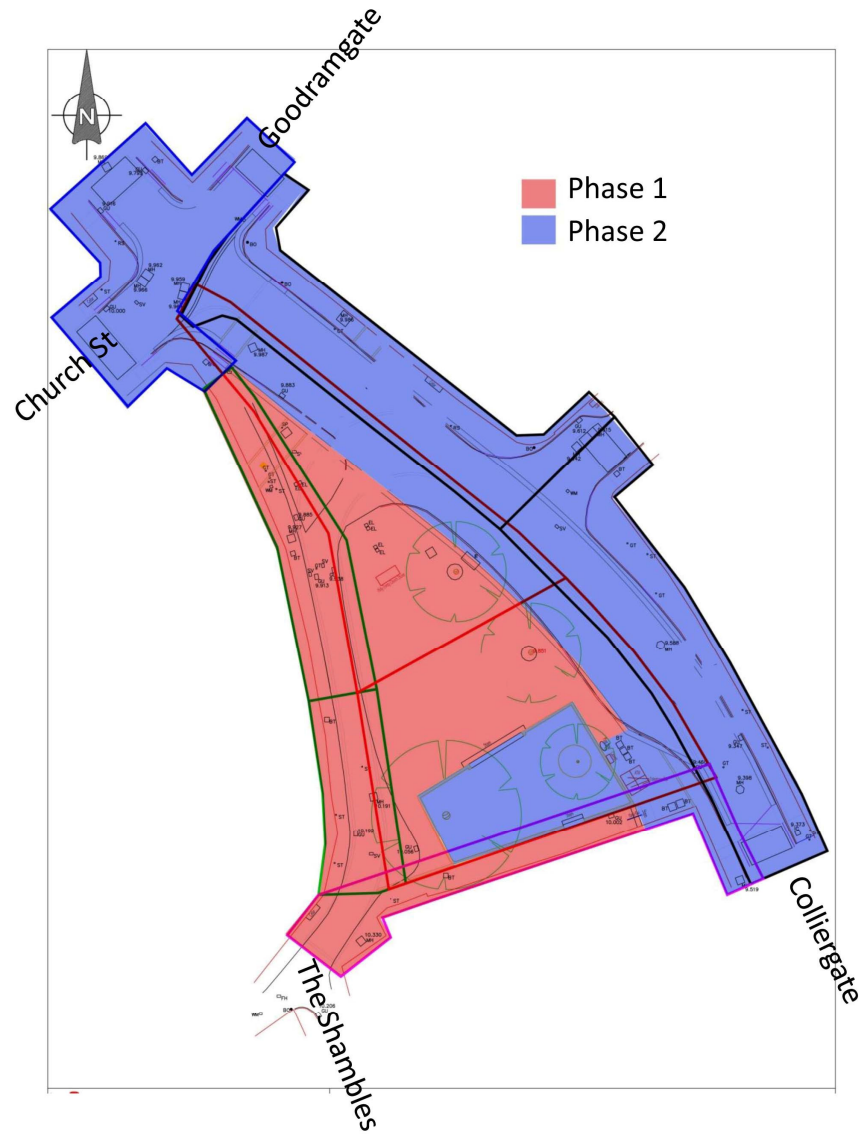
Background Papers: None

Annexes 1-4

Annex 1: Final Scheme



Annex 2: Phasing Plan



Annex 3: Historic Photographs



1895 Newgate



1908 Kings Square



Kings Court circa 1960



Kings Court 2012

Annex 4: Public Consultation Plan (04-25 Feb 2013)

Business User Group was set up comprising adjacent businesses, stall license holders, performers and entertainers, and the following events were run:

- o Workshop 07/12/12 @ Bedern Hall to gather information on use of space, tensions and aspirations to inform the draft scheme
- o Presentation 01/02/13 @ Bedern Hall to present and explain the draft scheme, and options within it, in advance of the consultation

Press Release resulted in features in both internal (Colin/Buzz) and external media features, including:

- o 'Major revamp plan for popular city-centre square' The Press 31/01/13
- o 'Concerns raised over proposed King's Square revamp' The Press 01/02/13
- o 'How can we improve Kings Square' oneandother.com 07/02/13

Guildhall Ward Committee attended 28/11/12. The Neighbourhood Management team promoted the consultation online via Guildhall YourWard, Guildhall Ward webpage and Facebook channels.

CYC Website A new webpage www.york.gov.uk/reinvigorateyork hosted the exhibition boards and consultation leaflet and explained how people could get involved. Consultation finder hosted online questions www.york.gov.uk/consultation

Presentations Conservation Area Advisory Panel 05/02/13, met partially sighted representative onsite 21/02/13.

Reference copies were available at York Explore Library and Learning Centre and City of York Council receptions.

Summary leaflet presented the draft scheme, options, timescales, where to find out more, how to respond and what next (900 copies). These were made available online, via surrounding business outlets, Council receptions and York Explore Library and Learning Centre.

Exhibition boards were placed in York Explore Library and Learning Centre for the duration of the consultation, and the scheme architect was available 9am-4pm on 09/02/13 to discuss the scheme.

Electronic mailing was sent to stakeholders including Councillors, Ward Members, City of York Council Officers, Without Walls, inclusivity user groups, Visit York, City Team, Conservation Area Advisory Panel, York Civic Trust, York Environment Forum and English Heritage amongst others.



Councillor James Alexander
Labour Leader of City of York Council
Report to Full Council – December 2013

Council Report December 2013

I thought it would be helpful if I reiterated the purpose of the Labour council. This is to alleviate poverty by getting our poorest residents off benefits and into well-paid work. We are doing this by working in partnership with the private sector to grow the local economy and increase job opportunities. We are funding this through investing in infrastructure and bringing developments forward. As we further approach full employment we will need to focus more on in work poverty and tackle low wages. I hope my report reflects the progress being made.

Employment

The number of people in York claiming job seeker's allowance is 2,195. This is a decrease of 122 from the previous month. This means 1.6% of York's working age population is currently claiming job seeker's allowance. In Yorkshire and Humber it is 3.9% and in the country it is 3.0%. York is outperforming the country by almost 50%. 2,195 represents a decrease of 872 from this time last year.

We are currently 0.1% away from pre-recession claimant figures.

Job Vacancies

It is immoral York has 2,195 people claiming job seeker's allowance and 2,214 job vacancies in York. This highlights the issue of linking people with the skills required to the job market. We are pursuing greater devolution of skills funding as part of the Government's city deal devolution programme to the Leeds City Region area. This will allow us a greater say to work with businesses to ensure training can be given to people for the job vacancies that are already here or the skills gaps we know are coming.

I would like the Government to devolve University funding on the basis of our functional economic geography, so that we can ensure

universities have to provide the courses required for in the job market, rather than the market for courses.

As of 16th November the number of job vacancies in York recorded by Job Centre Plus was 2,214. However I am concerned that 1161 of these were in employment agencies which give little job security. The second largest group was in retail with 205 vacancies and this is often low paid. Although we are approaching full employment, I would like us to focus more on better paid jobs as well as moving the over qualified out of existing jobs and into one befitting of their skill set. This will allow the low skilled access to the job market.

Out of Work Benefits

This month saw new quarterly data released by the Department for Work and Pensions showing York has the lowest number of people receiving out of work benefits ever recorded. York is both outperforming both the region and country in getting our residents off benefits and back to work. The results show York is outperforming the region by 48% and the country by 40%.

Out of work benefits data is recorded as far back as 2000 and consist of job seekers allowance, employment and support allowance, incapacity benefit, lone parent benefit and other income related benefits.

I have always taken the view benefits are a safety net to help the poorest when times are tough but are not a lifestyle choice. I believe in people being supported into well-paid employment to look after themselves and their family rather than the reliance on the state.

As of May 2013 there were 8,810 receiving out of work benefits in York, which is the lowest amount ever recorded. There has been a sharp decline over the numbers receiving these benefits consecutively for five quarters since Feb 2012. This is when the council introduced York's 'Economic Infrastructure Fund' to help facilitate growth of the economy and get people back to work. 6.6% of York's working age population receive out of work benefits. In Yorkshire and Humber this figure is 12.6% and in the country it is 11.2%.

In May 2011 we inherited a figure of 9,860. It was ,720 when the Liberal Democrats won control of the council from Labour in May 2003. These figures reached York's highest ever recorded figure of 10,840 in February 2010.

The UK figure has only reduced in the last quarter.

Youth Unemployment

The number of those aged 18-24 claiming job seeker's allowance is now 530. This is a reduction of 25 from last month and 240 from this time last year.

We have managed to secure £86,000 from the Leeds City Region to help tackle youth unemployment. This will see the council work in partnership with employers to support and match 56 young people aged 18-24 who are long-term unemployed into roles over the next two years. The council is topping up this fund with a further £60,000 from the Economic Inclusion Fund to support 40 more. York currently has 80 young people aged 18-24 who have been claiming job seeker's allowance for over a year. This reduced by 5 this month and by 50 from this time last year.

I welcome the news from Nestle that it is creating 1,900 job opportunities for young people in the country including at the factory in York.

The company will also work with schools and colleges to offer skills and employability training through its European Youth Employment Initiative.

We will be working with Nestle to maximise the opportunity this brings for York's young people.

York Central

The development of York Central could make the greatest impact on our city since the railways. As well as transforming a stagnating market town into a dynamic city, the railways imprisoned the area now known as York Central. With happy synchronicity, its release and redevelopment should provide a modern springboard to future prosperity. This is a very exciting project which will potentially change the face of York for ever, and provide the city with stable

employment opportunities for decades to come. It will be the cornerstone of the city's future economic prosperity it's difficult to think of a site which would be more appropriate for brownfield development. The size and location of the York Central development makes it one of the most important in western Europe. It is a jewel of an opportunity. It has been left derelict and underdeveloped for over a generation.

So much work has gone into working up proposals for the site that there is a determination to continue so that we can deliver the jobs, and housing that the city needs from this part of the city centre.

My involvement with the York Central development began when I became leader of the opposition in May 2010. There was a steering board that discussed grand plans but could not address the issue of the infrastructure gap required to access the site. The previous Liberal Democrat council went to market with a master plan that did not address the funding gap that was in the region of £50m. Unsurprisingly the market rejected the proposals. Following Labour winning control of the council in May 2011 we began pursuing tax increment financing for the site. This did not prove to be fruitful. We then pursued finance through the Government's infrastructure fund. I have personally discussed the matter with the planning minister, Nick Boles MP, the minister for cities, Greg Clark MP and the business secretary, Vince Cable MP. Despite many positive noises the Government has not awarded any funding towards this scheme.

Rather than allowing this site to remain derelict we have worked with Network Rail to secure a first access point into the site for construction traffic. This has been carried out through a land swap deal allowing Network Rail access to land next to the carriage works to bring some jobs back to this vicinity and the council the direct through route for a bridge to be constructed. In addition the council is allocating up to £10m toward this first access point from the council's Economic Infrastructure Fund. This will be only spent when the business case is agreed with network rail. There is significant developer interest in this site and allocating this £10m is a significant step forward towards unlocking York Central and its potential for the city.

The total scheme could deliver up to 8,000 jobs, over 1,000 homes and £600m a year to York's local economy. First phase could begin as early as 2015.

However we must ensure that we are flexible when it comes to the overall scheme. Taking inspiration from the Argent development behind Kings Cross, which was plagued with similar infrastructure constraints, we need to move with the market as time passes for the development. If we are too rigid in housing numbers, exact location and design, the full potential of the site will not be realised.

British Sugar

I welcome progress on another brownfield site which could provide a further 1,000 much needed homes for the city.

Associated British Foods are currently consulting on their plans and the council could be making a planning decision on the development as early as summer 2014.

The site covers 42 hectares and 12 hectares will be dedicated to new open space. The first homes could be occupied by as early as 2016.

This is another brownfield site being brought back into use since the sugar beet factory closed in 2007.

White Swan Hotel

I am pleased work has started on bringing the White Swan back into use as 18 affordable homes and a supermarket. My group considered compulsory purchase of this property whilst in opposition as it has been left empty for so long.

Contractors have started work on site after the council managed to secure a £450,000 grant from the Homes and Communities Agency.

I am pleased the homes coming into use will be housing association homes.

I thank Council officers and Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing for their work in bringing this project forward with Tees Valley Housing

Terry's

David Wilson Homes working with Henry Boot Developments have submitted a detailed planning application for 85 much needed homes. This will be the first phase of an estimated 270 units.

The first phase proposals includes a mixture of three and four bedroom homes and two bedroom apartments, along with a convenience store at the main access point in to the development.

Work is planned to commence by the end of the calendar year with residents moving in possibly as early as mid 2014.

I welcome the swift progress on this brownfield site being brought back into use for much needed homes.

Rail Devolution to the North

As I have said before, I am fully supportive of High Speed 2 and the economic benefits it will bring. The East Coast Mainline is clearly still important for York and I want to build a case with other places on the East Coast Mainline for continued investment. A meeting of council leaders with the rail minister was cancelled this month and I am concerned that Government promises over devolving rail networks in the north have been watered down to partnership working with the Department for Transport. I am seeking further information on this project.

Living Wage Accreditation

I am very proud that since my last report to full council, we received Living Wage Foundation accreditation for our efforts. We were the first local authority in the region to implement the Living Wage and many others have begun to follow suit. We have helped directly raise the living standards of over 500 members of our staff and we have agreed the Living Wage will become a condition of contracts from the beginning of the next financial year.

1st Anniversary of The Press 'Stamp Out Poverty' Campaign

I welcome the first anniversary of The Press 'Stamp Out Poverty' campaign. I hope the results as outlined in this report shows what we are doing as a council to stamp out poverty in this city.

I would like to see an increase in the number of employers paying the Living Wage and I would like to see The Press receive Living Wage accreditation just as the council and companies such as Aviva have.

Small Business Saturday

Small Business Saturday is on the 7th December and it is a welcome initiative to get people supporting small businesses. I will be taking part in a number of initiatives during the day.

Along with the Lord Mayor and Toby Perkins, Shadow Minister for Small Business we welcomed the Small Business Saturday to York. York was the only calling point for the bus in the North of England.

Some councils are giving free parking on Small Business Saturday. However feedback from businesses was that the town is often packed in the run up to Christmas and the support would be more appropriately needed in the post-Christmas lull.

Therefore as part of the programme the council will be giving free parking on a Saturday in January which will be at the choosing of small businesses.

Bringing Derelict Homes Back into Use

I welcome the council seeking Government approval for the compulsory purchase of a property in Bradley Drive that has been left derelict for over 15 years. The council has offered help to the owner of the property in Foxwood without success.

This is the second such case in recent months. It is immoral for us to need homes in this city and for very few property owners to leave premises derelict for the attention of vandals.

I would like to thank Councillor Steve Burton for pursuing this case which was raised with him by local residents. I remember him raising it during the local elections. I am amazed action was not taken by the council some years ago.

York Outer Ring Road

We are all very much aware that York's road network was not originally built for the volumes it receives. Council recently passed a motion supporting acquiring funding towards upgrading York's Outer ring road.

The funding required is in the order of at least circa £120m and the annual operational budget of the council is circa £128m. Therefore Government funding is required.

Upgrading the ring road would have a sub-regional economic impact and would help improve the economies of our neighbours. Therefore I was disappointed in August that the North Yorkshire Local Transport Body turned down an application for £2m towards improving the outer ring road.

Greater amounts of funding flow through the Leeds City Region and the council is working cross-party with West Yorkshire colleagues to deliver the Government's flagship devolution policy of a combined authority. Through this York can secure £83m towards transport schemes including upgrading the outer ring road.

The Prime Minister recently visited York and also gave his support to measures to upgrade the outer ring road. I have called a cross party meeting with both of York's MPs and all group leaders to discuss how we can work together to secure further funding.

Askham Grange

I am disappointed by the Conservative Liberal Democrat Government's announcement that Askham Grange prison will close. The Government says this is because there is no longer a requirement for dedicated women's open prisons.

My concern lies with the 100 staff who work at the prison who are currently unsure of their future, and I will be contacting Lord McNally to discuss their future.

The council will be working with the prison and partners to support staff with training and redeployment in light of this news.

Askham Grange has space for 126 offenders and The Press reported in May how it had been described as "remarkable" by inspectors.

The Press' Business Awards

I would like to congratulate all the winners and all those nominated for The Press' Business Awards.

I welcome comments at The Press' business awards from both Steve Hughes (Editor of The Press) and Richard Flanagan (president of the York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce).

Steve said with regards to the council's approach to the economy that the "strategy is beginning to pay off" whilst Richard made the assertion that "York needs to grow".

By the time of publication of this report Ed Miliband should have announced York as a 'right to grow city'.

In light of this, I am concerned about the existing plans to relocate sub editing activities for The Press, and other Newsquest publications, to South Wales. I am hoping to work with them so that they reconsider this move, which will affect a number of jobs in the city.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Until recently, there had been a real lack of clarity from Government about the future of devolved economic funding allocations to cities like York.

As such, we sought to clarify our position and that of the city as wanting to maximise our potential access to devolved funding pots.

In order to maximise this access to funding for transport projects such as York's Outer Ring Road, we confirmed our intention to be a full member of Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership and indeed to proceed to becoming a member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Seeking such clarity posed difficulties with York being a concurrent member of the York, North

Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership which does not have access to such large devolved capital funds.

I am pleased to say in seeking a pragmatic solution with the Government and the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership, there is a recognition from all sides that the vast bulk of York's large capital funds for transport will come to York via the cross-party West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

I look forward to working with the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership on small business support, tourism and York's growing agri-business sector.

Whilst I am personally looking forward to working with West Yorkshire colleagues on a transport fund of £1b that will be used to unlock critical infrastructure across the economic areas of the West Yorkshire authorities and York, I am also very excited at working with Barry Dodd and his LEP team on the development of a biorenewables cluster – Biovale. This will see interventions and actions undertaken to prioritise investment in the hard and soft infrastructure for the development of a hub of expertise and enterprise in the growing field of industrial biotechnology. In addition, and closely related, is the project to build the profile of York and North Yorkshire as a hub for agri-food technologies, hinged on FERA.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of council a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

Councillor James Alexander
1st December 2013

Meeting	Cabinet
Date	5 November 2013
Present	Councillors Alexander (Chair), Crisp, Cunningham-Cross, Levene, Looker, Merrett, Simpson-Laing (Vice-Chair) and Williams
In attendance	Councillors Aspden, Burton, D'Agorne, Funnell, Reid, Scott, Steward and Warters

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

68. Capital Programme - Monitor Two 2013/14

[See also Part A minute]

Consideration was given to a report which set out the projected capital programme outturn position for 2013/14 including any under/over spends and adjustments and requests to re-profile budgets between years.

The capital programme approved by Council in February, updated in the September monitor was £77.184m, financed by £42.467m of external funding and internal funding of £34.717m. A decrease of £4.611m which was detailed in the current monitor resulting in a revised budget of £72.573m the decrease being made up of £4.403m reprofiling schemes to 2014/15 and scheme reductions of £208k, mainly arising from a reduction in the IT development plan in year spend. Details of the variances in each portfolio area were set out at Table 1 of the report with a summary of the key exceptions, implications on the capital budget and Economic Infrastructure Fund at paragraphs 8 to 42.

Information on the 5 year capital programme was reported at Table 2 and at Annex A and details of the capital programme financing to 2017/18 at paragraphs 45 to 47 and Table 3.

The Cabinet Member reported on a number of large capital projects planned for schools to provide improved accommodation and to smaller variances which affected the overall programme.

Recommended: That Council agree the adjustments in the Capital programme of a decrease of £4.611m in 2013/14 as detailed in the report and contained in Annex A. ¹.

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

69. Travellers Site Provision - Extension of Osbaldwick Site

Members considered a report which requested approval and part funding, combined with funding from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to support the extension of the Osbaldwick Travellers site. The development agreed by the Planning Committee at their meeting on 24 October provided 6 additional pitches, grazing land for horses and amenity space.

It was reported that overcrowding was an issue on existing pitches, owing to a need to accommodate extended families including young children and elderly relatives and due to a shortfall of provision across the city. The Council currently held a waiting list of approximately 24 households seeking a York Travellers site pitch.

Further information on population growth amongst the traveller population over the Local Plan period 2015-2030 was reported together with details of the proposal, including scheme plan and consultation undertaken at paragraphs 9 to 27 of the report.

The Cabinet Member referred to comments of earlier speakers and to the discrimination and alienation of the community. Thanks were expressed to the Planning Committee for their full consideration of the planning application and for approval given to the extension of the site. The Cabinet Member referred to increases in the scheme costs of £135k which, following discussion, the HCA had agreed to provide an additional £81k match funding to reflect the anticipated scheme costs.

Members expressed their support for the proposals to address the proven need of the community and for ongoing dialog with both the travelling and the wider community to alleviate concerns.

Consideration was then given to the release of funding to support the extension of the Osbaldwick Travellers site and it was

Recommended: That Council give approval to:

- i) Option 1 to provide financial support for the extension of the Osbaldwick Travellers Site.
- ii) A capital budget of £763.5k to be funded from external grant of £423.5k and prudential borrowing of £340k.
- iii) Note the prudential borrowing will be repayable from additional rental income and that the terms of the borrowing and repayments will be agreed by the Director of Customer & Business Support Services.¹

Reason: To ensure that the council plays an active role in meeting the long term accommodation needs of the travelling community

Cllr J Alexander, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 8.30 pm].

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Meeting	Cabinet
Date	3 December 2013
Present	Councillors Alexander (Chair), Cunningham-Cross, Levene, Looker, Merrett, Simpson-Laing (Vice-Chair) and Williams
In attendance	Councillors Funnell and Steward
Apologies	Councillor Crisp

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

81. Consultation Response regarding Combined Authority

Members considered a report which updated Cabinet on developments since endorsement in May of the final governance Review and Scheme for a Combined Authority (CA) for the area of West Yorkshire, including Leeds, with the City of York Council proposed as a 'non constituent member'. A Government consultation document, attached at Annex A of the report had been published on 7 November 2013 and Members were asked to consider a formal response to the constitutional arrangements and functions of a Combined Authority for the area of West Yorkshire.

The report reviewed the consultation paper and proposed a response for submission by 2 January 2014. It was noted that the partnership approach would offer the greatest potential maximising the level of transport funding for York and that an £83m package of transport schemes was being progressed for the city through the West Yorkshire Plus York Transport Fund.

It was proposed that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council's legal team and the Leader would make a formal response and continue discussions for the city's progression to becoming a full member of the CA.

The Leader referred to the opportunities arising from membership of the CA and access to additional funding for

transport schemes. He confirmed that the decision would form a recommendation to the Council meeting on 12 December for final agreement.

Cabinet Members endorsed and reiterated the potential benefits and importance of membership in helping solve the congestion and transport challenges in the city and surrounding areas.

Following further discussion it was

Recommended: That Council be recommended to:

- i) Welcome the publication of the Government consultation paper which invites the submission of views by Thursday 2 January 2014;
- ii) Endorse the proposed constitutional arrangements and functions of the Combined Authority as set out in the consultation paper;
- iii) Approve the proposed approach to responding to the consultation;
- iv) Authorise the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Leader) to make a formal response to the Department for Communities and Local Government confirming the Council's support for the establishment of the Combined Authority and take such other steps as are considered appropriate to facilitate the preparation of the Order; and
- iv) Note the next steps and timetable and in particular that providing Government is satisfied that the proposals for a Combined Authority for West Yorkshire command wide local support and also meet the required statutory conditions, the Secretary of State will invite Parliament to approve the Order establishing the Combined Authority.

- v) Authorise further work and discussions with the Combined Authority regarding any legislative developments that would allow York to become a full member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority given the strong economic and transport case.
- vi) Authorise further work and discussions with the Combined Authority regarding the functional arrangements of the Combined Authority to ensure any changes in the medium to longer term are in York's best interests.

Reason: To allow the further development of the Combined Authority to ensure the future economic prosperity of York by accessing additional key transport funding opportunities.

82. Improving Public Convenience Facilities across the City

Consideration was given to a report which outlined details of a scheme to improve the standard of the city's public toilets, replacing many of the older facilities with modern, attractive public toilets to enhance the city centre, whilst delivering a revenue saving to the Council.

These improvements supported the Reinvigorate York programme and the new Interim Tourist Strategy in enhancing the public realm and improving the quality and excellence of the public visitor welcome. The proposal also achieved the 2013/14 Budget Council £75k saving following a review of public conveniences across the city.

A procurement exercise had been undertaken and a new supplier identified to refurbish and upgrade facilities at the sites detailed in the Annex to the report.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that the new facilities would provide major accessibility improvements and that the St Sampson's Square facility would no longer be required. Members also noted that further work would be undertaken with

local businesses to increase interest in a community toilet scheme.

Consideration was then given to the following three options:

1. Continue with the procurement exercise and award the contract as outlined above
2. Re-start the procurement process and reduce the tender specification to find a better proposal; in reality this would mean reducing the number of facilities, or opening times, etc.
3. Cancel the proposal and continue with existing arrangement. In order to meet the budget savings extra funding would be required or facilities would need to be closed

- Recommended:
- i) That Council be asked to allocate £663k capital funding to undertake the refurbishment of the toilets, this capital to be funded by annual payments from the existing revenue budget for public toilets.
 - ii) That, subject to the agreement of Council, a contract be awarded to the contractor who won the procurement exercise for £62k per year for fifteen years reflecting the aspects set out in paragraph 7 of the report.
- Reason: To create excellent public toilets for York.

Cllr J Alexander, Chair
[The Meeting started At 5.30 pm and finished at 7.00 pm].

**Scrutiny Report to Council
12 December 2013**

**Report of the Chair of
Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee**

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

Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC)

Call-ins

2. Since the last report of this kind in early October 2013, CSMC has considered one call-in regarding the Winter Maintenance Review for the 2013/14 Season. Having had the opportunity to look at the issue in more detail, CSMC agreed to uphold the decision and not to refer it back to the Cabinet for further consideration.

CSMC Reviews

3. Since the last meeting of full Council, CSMC has met once. The Committee received an update on the implementation of the approved recommendations arising from their previous Staff Sickness Scrutiny Review and their Customer Engagement Scrutiny Review. They also received a presentation on the findings from CYC's Staff Wellbeing Survey, and a scoping report for their agreed review on Equalities.
4. A Task Group has since been set up to carry out the Equalities review on behalf of the full committee. The review will focus on York's Communities of Identity in an effort to raise their awareness of and encourage their wider involvement in the Council's democratic traditions i.e. elections, decision making and community engagement.

Standing Overview & Scrutiny Committees

5. Each of the four Overview & Scrutiny Committees have now started work on their individual Night-Time Economy (NTE) scrutiny reviews in support of the corporate review theme agreed by CSMC earlier this municipal year. The Committees are tasked with presenting their final reports to CSMC in March 2014 for assessment, to enable CSMC to identify some overarching recommendations.

6. Each Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met once since the last meeting of Full Council, with the exception of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which has met twice, and each received a second Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report.
5. **Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee** - In November 2013 the Committee received a presentation from York & North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service on their work in support of the Safer York Partnership. They also received an update on the implementation of the approved recommendations arising from three of their previous scrutiny reviews - Winter Maintenance; Taxi Licensing and Community Engagement.
6. Work has commenced on the Committee's NTE review focussing on city centre street cleaning, and work is still ongoing on the committee's Domestic Waste Task Group Review and their A-Boards Task Group Review. An A-boards public consultation event is due to be held in late January 2014.
7. **Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee** – In November the Committee received a Bi-annual Update Report from the Museums Trust and an interim report on their Schools Meals Task Group Review. They also received a scoping report on their Night-Time Economy review which is focussing on extending the city's evening cultural offer.
8. In late November the School Meals Task Group met again to progress their review, and agreed their findings and draft recommendations which will need to take account of the knock on effects of the Government's plans to provide free school meals to all key stage 1 children.
9. **Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee** - In November, Members were given a briefing by the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services. They were also given an implementation update on the previously completed Youth Unemployment Scrutiny Review and update reports on the Construction Skills Scrutiny Review, which is investigating ways of increasing the supply of local people with building and constructions skills, and the regeneration of Newgate Market. Work has started on the Night-Time Economy review which is focusing on retail and transport.
10. The committee next meets on 28 January when Members will consider the final draft reports on the Construction Skills and Night-Time Economy Scrutiny Reviews, a scoping paper on support for online business / ecommerce skills and an update report on the Lendal Bridge trial.

11. **Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee** -

In October 2013 the committee received the annual report of the Chief Executive of Leeds and York Partnership and a monitoring report from Leeds and York Partnership on the way older people's mental health services are provided. Members were given reports on proposed changes to psychological therapies services at St Andrew's in York and Section 136 of the Mental Health Act – provision of a place of safety. They approved the draft final report of Community Mental Health & Care of Young People Task Group and received a presentation on loneliness by a representative from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

12. In November they received a report by the NHS Partnership Commission Unit on the Friends and Family Test – Maternity Services. They also considered the draft interim report from Personalisation Task Group and an update report on Night-Time Economy scrutiny review, which is focusing on the impact of the Night-Time Economy on the hospital's Emergency Department at peak times.
13. A Task Group appointed to carry out work on the Men's Health Scrutiny Review met for the first time in early December.
14. The Committee's next meeting is on 18 December when Members will receive a presentation by the Care Quality Commission, a report on how the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee work together and presentations from health partners on how they work together.

Councillor John Galvin

Chair of Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee

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Full Council Report of the Cabinet Member for

Leisure, Culture and Tourism, December, 2013

explore

York
Library Learning Centre

Library and Archive Service

As members will be aware, this is a year of transformation for the Library and Archives service. As well as special events and new services, Libraries and Archives staff have continued to provide excellent services every day for over 1 million users who borrowed 984,593 books. Staff helped people to get online, they read stories to under fives, supported a range of adult learning courses, answered enquiries, helped people fill in job applications, helped them to understand their local history and provided safe, welcoming spaces for everyone.

On 1 April 2014, York Libraries and Archives will transfer to a community benefit society. This is a staff led initiative and has received support from the Cabinet Office's Mutuals Support Programme. Staff have been working hard to ensure there will be a smooth transition into a social enterprise model that will provide a sustainable future for the city's libraries and archives. It has received national acclaim and is being used as an example of good practice for other public sector services.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded City of York Archives a grant of £1.6m to make our *York: Gateway to History project* a reality. A state-of-the-art store and new public spaces will be built on the first floor of York Explore Library Learning Centre in the heart of the city.

From February to September 2013 our architects developed the detailed designs and specifications for the refurbishment and new building work at York Explore (the tender has been awarded to York firm William Birch and Sons Ltd). Simultaneously, from January to June 2013 the Archives & Local History team carried out the complete removal of the City Archives from their old accommodation in the York Art Gallery. This involved wrapping, boxing and bar-coding over 300 m³ of irreplaceable documents and then packing them for removal to secure off-site stores. As a result, the York Museums Trust has been able to start work on the

renovation of the Art Gallery, and the City Archive is now protected from damage during the Gallery and York Explore building works.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge was our most successful ever, with 4,189 children taking part. Staff visited 38 schools and were helped throughout the summer by 42 volunteers. A wide range of activities happened during the summer holidays, culminating in the Celebration event with Craig Bradley (poet) hosting. I was pleased to be invited to award the prizes. Stockton-on-the Forest School won our School Cup for enrolling the most children.

In October we opened a new Reading Café at Sycamore House. This is a partnership between the Council and Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. There is a small collection of adult fiction and non fiction books with a focus on health and wellbeing. Free WiFi is also available and it is a very relaxing space in which to while away an hour or two.

York Explore hosted the Adult Learners Awards ceremony in May, celebrating the achievements of adult learners across the city.

Sport & Active Leisure

The work of the Sport & Active Leisure team continues to be focused by the data we have from the Active People survey, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Big York survey which tell us that the top priority remains older people, and those with a limiting disability / health condition, whilst amongst young people the priority is an increasing obesity issue in the city.

Whilst our overall level of residents meeting the 3x30 minutes per week activity level is not increasing significantly, the number of residents doing no exercise is dropping (it is now the lowest in the North of England) and the participation gap between the city average and those in the targeted groups is diminishing.

Our clear understanding of our local need and priorities has helped us to gain external grant funding to support the team. Sport England's *Inclusive* fund (£252k over three years) has enabled us to appoint two Disability Sport Officers and two Exercise Pathways Officers whilst the *Activation* fund (£249k over three years) has enabled us to appoint two Older People's Officers (one active aging and one frail elderly) and two Young People's Officers (one youth sport and one young person's health officer). Sport England funding has also enabled the appointment of an Events Legacy Officer who is capitalising on the York Gold 2012 legacy

and the opportunities that Tour de France and the Yorkshire Marathon will bring in terms of increased participation rates.

Here are some highlights of the current programme that provide an indication of the progress we are making in our participation programmes:

The HEAL programme (Health, Activity, Exercise and Lifestyle) has been expanded to include both recommendation and referral to exercise for neurological conditions, musculoskeletal conditions, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiac rehabilitation, cancer recovery, mental health, substance recovery and diabetes. It is now recognised by the Clinical Commissioning Group and allied health professionals with over 80 referrers (e.g. GPs, Physiotherapists, hospital clinicians, practice nurses, health visitors).

With respect to older people the EngAGE 50+ programme has been expanded with 15 sessions including pilates, circuits, tai chi, rusty rackets, hula hooping, back to boots football) run in partnership with the respective national governing bodies and local clubs. Dementia awareness workshops have been developed for sports clubs (in conjunction with Sports Coach UK). These are the first in the country and are due to be rolled out nationally. The sporting memories programme will bring a flavour of the Tour de France into residential homes whilst activity sessions are being developed in care settings, training care staff to support chair exercise, falls prevention / mobility, wii sessions, etc.

With respect to disability more than 60 inclusive sessions are running across the city (e.g. archery, snooker, wheelchair basketball, hydrotherapy, visual impairment tennis, goalball, boccia), and an online and printed inclusive activity directory has been produced. The development of service provision is being guided by an annual social care user survey for learning, physical and sensory impairment and we are currently developing a hearing impairment and autistic spectrum condition survey.

DCatch (disabled children's access to childcare) funding is being used to provide inclusive equipment grants for local sports club. A new, inclusive cycling club is now based at the York Sports Village closed circuit track including an adaptive bike hire scheme. The team are also working with the HEAL team on neurological rehabilitation (brain injury) and mental health inclusive sessions at local clinics and sports clubs.

The team continues to develop an events legacy through the York Gold programme, e.g. the *Just 30* fair, *Just 30* campaign, social media and signposting activity. Local and regional Tour de France programmes are being rolled out including Skyride, local guided rides, inclusive rides, *Breeze* rides (women only), HEAL rides (including a pilot with Priory Medical Group to develop a research project into the potential of cycling prescription to reduce the burden on practice budgets), social cycle groups, cycle training city centre cycle races. Activity has taken place linked to the Commonwealth Games (e.g. back to netball, corporate sports activity), Rugby league World cup (schools competitions), and local events such as the York Marathon (run groups).

Many other elements of the Sport & Active Leisure team's work encourage increases in physical activity levels for a wider population, not least the voluntary club development support we offer and the facility development schemes we have been involved with. All of this work plays a significant part in York's 2012 legacy strategy. There is of course also a great deal of work happening with children and young people in schools and in the community which lies in the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People.

Culture, Events & Festivals

In January 2013 the Amaury Sports Organisation announced that the Grand Départ of the 101st Tour de France would be hosted in Yorkshire in 2014. The Tour de France is the largest annual sporting event in the World attracting a global audience and the Grand Départ forms its first 3 stages. The second Stage Starts in York on Sunday 6th July and will leave from York Racecourse, take a tour through the city, and head off through the Yorkshire Dales before finishing in Sheffield.

This opportunity is not just about bringing this spectacular sporting event to Yorkshire but also to demonstrate to the world the benefits of the region and to build a legacy around health and participation for cycling and tourism. In 2007, research undertaken by Transport for London, showed that significant economic impact to London was achieved with their Grand Départ with over £78 m in economic benefit. The ambition for the 2014 event is to match if not exceed that benefit in Yorkshire. The scale of this international event is huge, attracting large audiences worldwide.

The delivery is complex and challenging and because of this a regional coordinating structure is working with the 14 local authorities to ensure a successful event. Here in York we have set ourselves three clear goals:

- To deliver a safe and enjoyable event in York, which enhances the reputation of our city
- To maximise the economic benefit and opportunity in the short, medium and long term
- To secure a long lasting legacy across our communities, culture, cycling infrastructure and health

We are already starting to feel the benefits of hosting the Tour de France with a new partnership established with British Cycling. This brought us the National Circuit Cycle Championships Races in July and the first ever York Skyride. With 5,500 people participating in the latter it was British Cycling's most successful first Skyride ever and added to a total of over 25,000 people participating in Skyrides in the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

A year ago I reported that we had been preparing a bid for York to be a UNESCO Creative City but that this was on hold due to UNESCO's funding position. I am pleased to announce that the Creative Cities programme at UNESCO has been re-launched and we have put together a bid team to update our submission. There are new criteria and the bid team will be charged with assessing how we can meet these and support the internationalisation of a larger proportion of our cultural and creative industries. We are confidently expecting to take our place in the Creative City network.



The legacy of **York 800** has continued through 2013, with two new festivals being successfully delivered for a second year:



Buskival, York's street performance festival delighted residents and visitors alike during the May bank holiday with its growing programme of local and international street performers. The interest in this event continues to grow and in 2014 Buskival will be taking place at the heart of York's Tour de France 100 day cultural festival.

The second Yorkshire Medieval Festival was an excellent regional partnership event with an exciting programme taking place in August in a variety of venues in York, Knaresborough and Pontefract. This festival is a welcome addition to York's calendar.

York Stories 2012 launched its legacy website. The project has involved over 50 organisations, 25 artists and 50 volunteers.

(www.yorkstories2012.com). One of the project highlights enabled residents and visitors to contribute small personal objects to a large clay time capsule made by a Yorkshire artist Kane Cunningham. The time capsule houses over 1,000 stories and hundreds of personal artifacts. It has been buried in our Bar Walls and awaits 2212 when the capsule will be reopened. The final part of this project will shortly be completed: a unique interactive city wall installation consisting of a QR (Quick Response) codes trail is being installed to allow visitors and residents to listen to York Stories as they pass along the city walls.



This year's Illuminating York festival provided visitors and residents a delightful and striking programme on the theme of 'Illuminating the Past, Enlightening the Future', celebrating York's deep and strong links to its Viking heritage the key works helped to illustrate a wonderful aspect of York's rich and varied cultural history.

The festival included two unique projections on Clifford's Tower and on the Yorkshire Museum. These works were supported by five free light based pieces around the city, making 11 brand new illuminating artworks in total. This created a colourful celebration of York's unique heritage, which along with our partners' fringe programme contributed to an increase in the number of visitors to our beautiful city as well as generating extraordinary national and international interest.



Spark was a fantastic and very popular new addition to this year's Illuminating York programme delivered in partnership with York St John University. Five new and emerging artists were selected through an open submission, including York St John students. The

chosen artists were provided with technical mentoring and a small budget.

With the support of Arts Council England funding the partner steering group has started to consider the development of the festival and begin planning for the 10th Illuminating York Festival in 2014.

Looking to our cultural partners I must mention the extraordinary production by York Theatre Royal, Pilot Theatre and Slung Low – Blood and Chocolate. With a cast of 100s of local people working alongside professional actors this illustrates the city working at its very best in a unique York way. Blood and Chocolate used York's historic landmarks as a backdrop to a wonderful cultural experience and was a sell out success.

In May I was pleased to host the West Offices Public Art Programme when guests were able to view the five completed bespoke works installed as part of the building refurbishment. This gave the opportunity for those involved in this wonderful programme and guests meet the artists involved. As part of this project Artist John Newling worked with York St John University Students setting up a 'Market of Hidden Ideas' outside West Offices. This piece engaged the public and staff over two days with a unique community engagement project, which has resulted in the production of a wonderful film and a legacy proposal that the market becomes an annual event.

The first annual Staff Photography Competition was held this year. The resulting 2nd floor exhibition is the first of a programme of exhibitions which will be displayed in the West Offices meeting room corridors. There were 48 entrants to the competition and the resulting exhibition of 12 selected photographs has proved enormously popular with staff and visitors alike.

I have given a taste of the programme of events and festivals that took place this year all of which have provided colour and vibrancy to the life in the city. In no small part the full range of cultural activities enjoyed by York residents and visitors ensure that we continue to raise regional and national profile of the city in the local, regional and national media. Coming out of York 800 this year has continued to evidence and illustrate the importance of culture in the economic wellbeing and future growth of the city.

Other key events and activities that deserve an honourable mention include the delivery of another successful Holocaust Memorial Day

programme which continues to go from strength to strength. York's programme is now held up by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust as an example of what can be achieved with strong local leadership and partnership working.

In October of this year York held its first Marathon, delivered by the Run For All Team who manage the Jane Tomlinson 10k each year in the city, in association with City of York Council. The places for the Marathon, originally set at 5,000, sold out in three days and an additional 1,200 places were released once a health and safety assessment on the proposed route had made this possible. Added to this were 92 Corporate Teams of 5 people who did the Marathon as a Relay.

The event started from the University of York and took in several villages on the outskirts of York. It is estimated that £1.3million was raised on the day for charities across the country. Top names in the Marathon World were flown in from Kenya to take part, many well known names from television and sports took part and the event was televised by Channel 4. Crowds lined the entire 26 mile route and the event has been hailed a complete success. Most places for next year are already taken.

During 2013 community engagement has continued to be a key priority and examples include:

- Media Art for Inclusion in a partnership European funded project working with Refugee Action York, New Visuality and Khaoz Media involving disadvantage young people in York working with professional community artists and film makers.
- Spring Board, a central government pilot project for young people in care was launched in 2013, which involves three regions, York, Selby and Ryedale. This project is exploring innovative ways to engage with some of our most hardest to reach young people.
- Cultural volunteering opportunities continue to be very much in demand in York and the past 12 months has seen the development of a structured volunteering programme for cultural community projects and events & festivals. For example 150 student and resident volunteers signed up to help the festivals and events team deliver three of our events this year.

Markets

Last year Cabinet approved £1.5m capital in Newgate Market which will reinvigorate the markets as a platform for enterprise and opportunity, creating a destination market with a strong brand and the potential to increase footfall and spend.

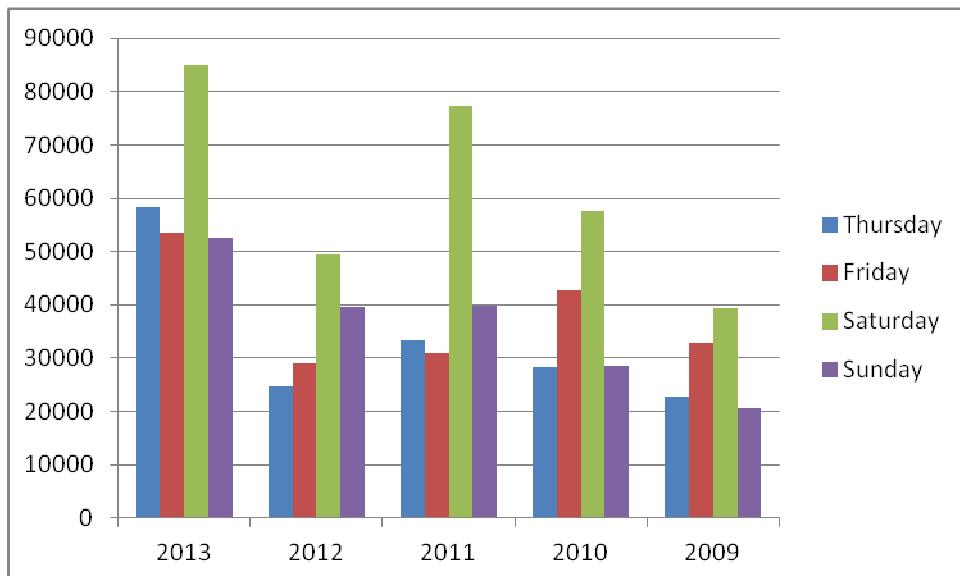
The focus of the project will be to uplift the appearance of the existing market place, making more imaginative uses of the space, increasing the visibility of the market gateways, improving the flow of footfall throughout the whole site, diversifying the trader offer, and bringing stronger activity to previously weak places. The aim will be for shoppers to visit more frequently, stay longer and spend more.

Bauman Lyons have recently been appointed to be our architects on the scheme. They are Leeds based and have a strong track record both on markets and on many projects with a focus on social-purpose. They are both enthusiastic and imaginative and we are confident that they will engage well with all stakeholders, including the traders to deliver the scheme that everyone wants.

The traders are closely involved in the scheme – we are working with them to establish a new traders’ forum - and the first ideas will be produced for consultation in early February.

This year’s St Nicholas Fayre was a great success with footfall up a massive 75% over the 4 days compared to 2012. A number of traders reported at least 30% increase in their takings over the period of the Fayre.

The graph below shows the footfall for each day over the last five years:



Parks and Open Spaces

Acomb Green Play area – a £55k refurbishment project developed in partnership with the Friends of the Green and supported by the Lottery was joint winner in the York Design Awards Public Open Space category (April 13).

All five of the Council's Green Flag sites retained the award this summer.

The new smarter York community engagement team started work in October. This new team are building upon the excellent community work of the Park Rangers and Street Environment Officers. Of the current 20 plus projects on the go highlights include working with:

- The Friends of Chapman's Pond to improve improving fishing facilities
- Bootham School to create a food growing and educational resource at Bootham Rest Garden
- Higher York to expand the end of term student clean up campaign so that runs throughout the term (part of the student strategy)
- Bug Life to support increase wildflowers at key green spaces
- York Cares to host at least one employer volunteering group per month to carry out conservation work
- City centre businesses to take responsibility for the cleanliness of their immediate streets and surrounds

We are working to increase community management of and involvement in parks. A number of community led schemes are developing including a proposal to create a visitor centre from the former park keeper's house at West Bank Park.

Diversity

We are making good progress with our York Equality Scheme and have booked in our peer assessment at 'Excellent' level for May next year.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Audit & Governance Committee
Date	6 November 2013
Present	Councillors Potter (Chair), Brooks (Vice-Chair), Ayre, Barnes, Burton and Mr Whiteley (Co-opted Non-Statutory Member)
Apologies	Councillors Watson and Wiseman

Part B - Matters Referred to Council

42. Review of the Petitions Scheme

Members considered a report that sought their support for changes to the Petitions Scheme which had been in operation for the last three years.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed changes including:

- The inclusion of wording stating that the scheme did not cover petitions which respond to a public consultation organised by the Council. Officers explained that this proposed amendment would remove the situation whereby a petition could trigger a debate at both the consultation stage and then later at the point when the decision was made.
- The deletion of the provision to call an officer to account. Officers confirmed that, although this option was included in the current scheme, it had never been used. There were, however, other mechanisms by which an officer could be held to account.

Members suggested that the final sentence of the first paragraph on Securing a Full Council Debate be amended to read "This means that the issue(s) it raise(s) will be discussed at a meeting which all Councillors can attend and the views will be considered by the relevant decision-makers".

Members also recommended that petition organisers be provided with the paragraph in the report detailing the action that could be taken if they believed that their petition had not been dealt with properly.

Councillor Ayre proposed and Councillor Brooks seconded that the draft scheme be amended to remove paragraph (c) under the section on petitions not covered by the scheme (i.e. respond to a public consultation organised by the Council). On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

Councillor Ayre then proposed and Councillor Brooks seconded that the draft scheme be amended to reinstate the provision to petition to call officers to account. On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

Recommended: That the revised scheme set out in the annex to the report be adopted as the Council's arrangements for handling petitions subject to the final sentence of the first paragraph on Securing a Full Council Debate being amended to read "This means that the issue(s) it raise(s) will be discussed at a meeting which all Councillors can attend and the views will be considered by the relevant decision-makers".

Reason: To ensure that the Council has clear arrangements in place to deal with petitions.

Councillor Potter, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.45 pm].

Petitions Scheme

City of York Council is committed to involving local people in its decision making. For some years, it has been operating a public participation scheme enabling members of the public to attend meetings and speak on an issue. It has also responded to petitions from the public, received in an number of ways e.g. through a Ward Councillor submitting a petition on behalf of a constituent or by a resident submitting one direct to a council office by post/hand. As part of its approach to petitions, the Council has also introduced an ePetitions facility, providing another way in which a particular issue can be brought to the attention of Councillors.

Through this Petitions Scheme, the Council is making a commitment to:

- Enable anyone who lives, work or studies in the local authority area to organise and submit a petition either on paper or electronically
- Respond to the concerns raised within a petition
- Review its handling of a petition where a lead petitioner believes it has not been dealt with in accordance with this scheme.

To support the scheme, the Council has:

- Set a low threshold on the number of petitioners to enable as many valid local opinions to be heard as possible
- Provided an ePetitions facility to enable those who want to, to create their petition on line and allow others to sign it electronically

Petitions Not Covered By This Scheme

This scheme does not cover petitions which:

- a) Relate to a planning or licensing application – in this case a petition will be referred to the relevant decision maker
- b) Relate to matters where there is a legal right to seek a review or appeal
- c) Respond to a public consultation organised by the Council – in this case a petition will be referred to the decision maker
- d) Seek to criticise the performance or conduct of an identifiable individual or individuals – where appropriate the lead petitioner will be directed to the most appropriate route for raising such concerns with the Council.

- e) The Council's Monitoring Officer, acting in consultation with the Chief Executive, considers to be vexatious, abusive or otherwise inappropriate

In addition to these rules where a petition has resulted in a debate at a meeting of full Council, the Council will not hold a further debate in response to a petition which the Lord Mayor considers to be substantially similar within a period of two years.

During the period leading up to a local or national election the Council may temporarily suspend the hosting of e-petitions or delay holding debates.

Submitting a Petition

Paper Petitions

Paper petitions can be submitted via a number of routes e.g. via a Ward Councillor, by post or hand delivered to one of the Council office buildings.

Paper petitions handed in to a Ward Councillor are presented at Full Council and then passed to a senior officer within the relevant Directorate. Those that come directly into a council office building are also passed to the appropriate senior officer.

Paper petitions should contain the details of the petition on the front of each sheet so that it is clear that each signatory has responded to identical wording.

EPetitions

All ePetitions submitted to the Council must:

- Include a clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition
- State what action the petitioners wish the Council to take

The ePetition organiser will need to provide us with their name, postal address including postcode, email address and contact telephone number. The name of the petition organiser (but no other contact details) will be published alongside details of the petition.

The ePetition organiser will also need to decide how long their petition will be open for signatures. Most ePetitions run for six months, but it can be a shorter or longer timeframe, up to a maximum of 12 months.

When an ePetition is created, it may take up to five working days before it is published online. This is because we have to check that the content of the ePetition meets the guidelines before it is made available for signature.

The relevant Cabinet Member will be advised of the publication of any e-petition relating to his or her service area.

If a petition does not follow the guidelines set out above, or if we need clarification on any issues raised within an ePetition, we will contact the ePetition organiser within 5 working days of receipt to explain.

We will also contact the ePetition organiser if we feel we cannot publish an ePetition for any reason, and where possible, we will offer assistance to change and resubmit it.

If the required clarification is not provided, or if an ePetition that we cannot publish is not re-submitted within 14 days, a summary of the ePetition and the reason why it has not been accepted will be published under the 'rejected petitions' section of the Council's ePetitions facility.

How To 'sign' an ePetition

An individual wanting to sign an ePetition, will be asked to provide their name, address and postcode, plus a valid email address. They will then receive an email containing a link which they must click on in order to confirm their email address is valid. Once this step is completed their 'signature' will be added to the ePetition.

NB: Anyone viewing an e-petition will only be able to see the names of those who have signed - **no contact details will be visible**.

All ePetitions currently available for signature on the Council's website can be viewed at

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/mgePetitionListDisplay.aspx?bcr=1>

How will the Council respond?

Within 14 days of a petition being received or of an ePetition being closed to signatories, we will send acknowledgement to the petition organiser, providing information on when they can expect to hear from us again and how we plan to respond.

Our response will depend on what the petition/ePetition asks for and how many people have signed it, but may include one or more of the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- considering the petition at a meeting of Full Council
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation event
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition
- referring the petition for consideration by a council committee or body

If the petition/ePetition is about something over which the council has no direct control e.g. the local railway or hospital, we *may* refer it to the Council's relevant partner organisation, and where appropriate, may work with them to respond to the petition.

Securing a Full Council Debate

Where a petition/ePetition contains more than 1000 signatures it will be debated by the Full Council. This means that the issue(s) it raise(s) will be discussed at a meeting which all Councillors can attend and the views will be considered by the relevant decision-makers.

In determining whether a petition has received the required number of signatures the Council will combine paper petitions with other paper petitions and with any e-petition if requested by the petition organiser to do so and if the wording on each petition is identical.

The council will decide how to respond at this meeting. For example, they may decide:

- to forward the petition/ePetition to a meeting of the Cabinet for a decision (most decision making power in the Council rests with the Cabinet), or ask the appropriate decision maker to consider the views expressed in the debate when reaching a decision
- to take the action the petition/ePetition requests if it is something which by law, is a decision which can be taken at a full Council meeting;
- not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate or;
- to commission further investigation into the matter e.g. requesting an officer report be produced for consideration by the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee;

Getting Involved When Your Petition Is Considered

A petitioner may choose to attend any meeting where their petition/ePetition is to be considered to listen to the debate, or register to speak at the meeting via the Council's Public Participation Scheme. This scheme enables participants to address Councillors before they debate the issues raised.

What happens next?

The petition/ePetition organiser will receive notification of the outcome of their petition. Where a petition/ePetition has been considered at a public meeting, information on the related decisions will be made available electronically via the meeting minutes published online. It will also be possible to track the implementation of any actions arising from them, via the online committee management system.

What if I feel the petition has not been dealt with properly?

If a petition organiser feels that we have not dealt with their petition properly, they have the right to request that the Council's Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee review the steps that the Council has taken in response to their petition. The committee will consider a request within 30 days of receiving it.

Should the Committee determine we have not dealt with a petition adequately, it may use any of its powers to deal with the matter. These powers include:

- instigating an investigation

- making recommendations to the Council's Cabinet
- arranging for the matter to be considered at a meeting of the Full Council.

Once the review has been considered the petition organiser will be informed of the results within 5 working days, and the results of the review will also be published on our website via the minutes of the meeting.



Audit and Governance Committee

11th December 2013

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Public Participation Scheme

Summary

- 1 This report seeks Members' views on proposed changes to the public participation scheme within the Constitution.

Background

- 2 The Council allows members of the public to speak during a public participation session at public meetings of Council, Cabinet and most Committees, task and working groups. This is not a statutory right but one afforded by the Council. The rules relating to this are set out in the procedure rules for Council and Cabinet/Committee meetings and elaborated in the Public Participation Scheme.
- 3 The rules make very little reference to the appropriate content of contributions. The Chair of each meeting does though have a general power at common law to control proceedings and maintain good order. Currently, however, the Council's rules give Chairs minimal guidance on how they should use those powers in relation to citizens using the public participation rights. Similarly citizens are given very little guidance on areas that would be considered unacceptable. To address this gap the Committee is being asked to support the following rules being adopted:
 - a) Participation is to allow members of the public to engage with decision-making and speakers should avoid making party political points.
 - b) Anyone using the public participation rights must ensure that what they say is factually correct.

c) Public participation rights must not be used to:

- Raise an issue which is not a matter for which the City of York Council is responsible for or does not affect the City
- Say anything which is defamatory, frivolous, discriminatory or offensive
- Criticise the conduct or performance of an individual (including a Council officer) who is not in a position to respond at the meeting
- Disclose confidential or exempt information including personal information about an individual other than yourself
- Raise an issue which has been raised in the recent past without good reason

Consultation

- 4 This report is coming to this Committee for consultation prior to it being presented to Council for approval.

Options

- 5 The Committee may express support for the current proposals or suggest amendments or additions.

Analysis

- 6 Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

Corporate Priorities

- 7 This report contributes to the corporate objective of making the Council an effective organisation.

Implications

- 8 **Legal** – the public participation scheme forms part of the Council's current constitution.

Recommendation

- 9 Members are asked to:

Support the proposed amendment to the public participation scheme described in the report and recommend the change to Council

Reason

To ensure that the Council has clear arrangements in place for public participation.

Contact Details

Author and Chief Officer

Responsible for the report:

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ICT

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**Report
Approved**



Date 27/11/13

Wards Affected: Not applicable

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

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**Membership of Committees, Working Groups and
Outside Bodies**

Committees/Working Groups

Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To appoint Councillor Cuthbertson to replace Cllr Hyman on the Committee.

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