

Leader's Report to Full Council 9th December 2010

1 Winter Conditions

I would like to record my thanks to the crews who have been responding to the unusually early start to the snow and icy conditions both in terms of gritting/snow clearance, and in the extra efforts that have gone into maintaining the everyday services of the council across all departments.



Snow clearance at the entrance to Gale Farm Court

2 Barbican : Good News

I am pleased to report that the contact has been signed with SMG Europe Holdings Ltd for the redevelopment of the Barbican and a 30 year lease. Confirmed acts will be announced before the end of the year and tickets will start to go on sale in a few weeks time on 4th January, and there will be a city centre location for residents to find out what is on offer, job opportunities (with 60 FTE posts being created), and tenders that are being awarded so that local companies can see how they can bid for tenders for work at the site.

The objective remains to host over 350 entertainment events and 50 conferences each year which initial estimates from Visit York suggest would bring in between £9-£12 million to the York economy. The Barbican website,

offering information about the venue and on-line booking facility will be launched in the early spring. The annual Festival of Remembrance, Carol Concert and Guildhall Orchestra will return.

The £2m investment in the scheme will include a £1.5m refurbishment of the much loved venue enhanced with a dedicated restaurant, meeting rooms and improved public and back of house spaces. SMG is working with Arup and Fuse Design on the redevelopment and construction work will start on site in early January.



'Silver Bar' Visual

3 Sports Village Pool

The planning application has now been submitted for the new pool at Heslington. York Sports Village Limited Liability Partnership has been formed and they are aiming for opening in July 2012 and work starting on site in Spring 2011. There have been many expressions of interest to procurement, which will be short listed to 6. Sport England consultation has been completed, all site archaeology has been done.

4 Affordable Housing

The Executive received a report in October to look at the viability of the Affordable Housing requirements operating for planning permissions in the city, with a view to how the construction industry could be supported with the kick start of some developments that have not yet reached fruition. There are concerns about the access to mortgages and I have asked as Chairman of the Homes and Communities Agency Board for Leeds City Region that there is a city region wide approach to mortgage lenders to support the market at this time.

Discussions are ongoing with developers with respect to the 'dynamic model' which will redefine the assumptions in the council's assumptions for the affordable housing element of applications. A further report will come to Executive very soon.

5 Liberating the NHS

The Executive considered the consultation on the changes planned within the NHS to ensure that York residents gain from the process, and that there is the maximum democratic accountability established within new models. As there is already the Healthy City Board established as part of Without Walls this is a strong position to start from, although there will still be the need to push central government for greater recognition of the age profile of the population in per capita allocation of funds.

The details for a Transition Board with terms of reference will come back to the Executive for approval.

6 Rail Franchise Reforms Dft Consultation



Getting the right conditions for a long term franchise for the East Coast Mainline is of key economic importance to the city, and given recent history having stability will be vital. Enabling an operator to invest in new locomotives and rolling stock will be vital. The 125s date from 1976 and the overhauling in 1996 was only meant to extend their operating lives to 2003.

Improving reliability of the line is important for the future of the York economy, and improvement of the overhead lines vital to achieve this. The council continues to actively lobby for the electrification of the route between Leeds and York which is of advantage for an ECML operator, as well as assisting with the city benefiting from any future investment in the Manchester –Leeds route.

The response from the council will state the importance of headquarters functions being retained in the city, and that by maintaining a critical mass of jobs in York that experience is retained and new generations of railway employees being developed in York.

7 Community Stadium

The Executive has approved a Community Stadium Advisory Group with a political balance of 2:2:1 and that partner organisations be invited to attend as

a way of driving forward the necessary democratic dialogue to achieve a truly “community” stadium project. The project is very much dependent upon the enabling development at the ‘Vanguard site’ and details are now coming forward for this scheme.

8 Climate Change

The Executive received a report on the results of the city-wide consultation on the draft Climate Change Framework, and Climate Change Action Plan for York. This will now proceed for finalisation and adoption of the CCFAP for York by the end of 2010. The Executive recognised that whilst the council has its own internal Carbon Management Plans this wider plan will rely upon partnership working to deliver them.

9 Yorkshire Forward Renaissance Team Report



The Executive considered the publication of the work commissioned by Yorkshire Forward led by Prof Alan Simpson ‘Towards a York Economic Vision’ which contains a large number of proposals and challenges for the city. As this is a document, which similar to the Esher Report of the late 1960’s, is intended to stimulate debate for long term development plans in the city. Therefore it has been referred to the Local Development Framework Working Group, and has been considered by the Without Walls Board.

10 Childhood Obesity Scrutiny Review

The Executive received the final report from the Childhood Obesity Scrutiny Review in November. The report puts forward a recommendation made by the Task Group set up to consider the effective reduction of childhood obesity in the city. Although the NPI have since been removed, it is still an important topic and one in which all those involved with the health of children and young people are engaged. It is important to note that the NHS already has a Health Improvement Manager (Obesity) and that the group took evidence from that officer. Evidence from the CYC’s Sport and Active Leisure team was also heard, as were details of the Healthy Schools Initiative. Information was also taken from the supplier of school meals at the time, although it should be noted that the supplier has subsequently changed.

In light of the economic situation the Executive agreed to a named lead officer rather than a dedicated post.

11 HQ Accommodation Project Update report

The report provided an update on a number of matters relating to the Accommodation Project for the Council's new Headquarters building, as requested by Members at the Executive meeting on 20 July 2010.. The current estimates are that the project will save £17 million of council resources compared to staying as we are. The Executive requested that officers work with the owners of the properties that we currently rent to establish dilapidation costs so that they are known in advance, and to examine how the most efficient use of rented space can be achieved as we move into the new headquarters building.

12 Flood and Water Management

The Executive considered a report on the implications of the Flood and Water Management Act and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the additional responsibilities that have been given to local authorities. York has been at the forefront of providing information that some assumptions from central government are not being realistic in the savings from private sewer work moving towards private water companies.

13 More for York Programme

It is clearly worthwhile recognising in summer 2008 that we would inevitably see massive reductions in public sector spending by now and the process acknowledged that whoever won the General Election would have a significant deficit issue to resolve. Therefore it is appropriate to maintain and the resource the More for York programme to run for a total of 6 years to reach the projected savings needed by 2013.

There has been a major upheaval with the regional structures, and partnerships and therefore the restructuring of the Office of the Chief Executive was approved to respond to this as well as the background requirements for all parts of the council to minimise costs.

14 York Northwest Planning Framework

This report asks Members to approve, for public consultation purposes, the draft SPD and the draft Consultation Plan for the former British Sugar/Manor School sites, taking into account the recommendations and amendments of the Local Development Framework (LDF) Working Group.

The site is a key area for the future development of York. I met with Sir Bob Kerslake to discuss the proposals that were being developed in York in terms of exemplar construction – the key theme is that of being a centre of excellence in eco construction working with partners like Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust to develop a market, supply chain and skills base for future delivery of higher standard housing. It is regrettable that the trials for the tram train have not progressed as quickly as they could, and I did discuss this with the Undersecretary of State Norman Baker on the LGYH meeting with the

Department for Transport. There does need to be clarity on the preservation of the Manor School Playing fields in an area where development over decades have led to a shortage of open space in the arc between Tadcaster Road and Boroughbridge Road.

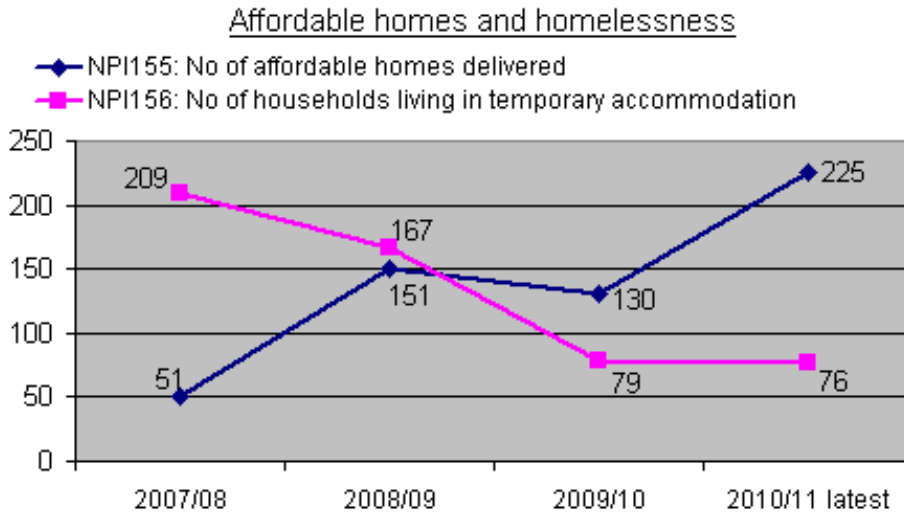
The site is still part of the Leeds City Region Housing Investment Programme which will be reviewed in the light of the CSR announcement, and which will now need to include the results of the announcement on Friday by the Housing Minister on the 6 year retention of Council tax on new properties and a £350pa supplement for affordable housing. The money from the CLG will pay for masterplanning work, but there has to be a much greater demonstration of effort by officers locally and at City Region level to lever in European Funding. Having clarified with the officers of the EU Commission in Brussels in July that the ERDF scheme would permit the application for funding of the pilot buildings (and in the longer term JESSICA funding for higher environmental standards in social housing) I have been pressing this aspect for some time now.

15 Performance and Financial Monitor : Second Quarter

This report provided the Executive with details of the headline issues from the second quarterly finance and performance monitor of 2010-11, covering the period from 1 April to 30 September 2010, with more up-to-date data provided where available.

- The administration has set as a high priority that all pupils in York's schools should be able to reach their full potential as the best start in life. There has been a significant improvement in the proportion of pupils gaining 5 A*-C (we have moved up the national rankings from 45th to 31st). Progress is being made between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 with 87.1% of pupils progressing by 2 levels in Maths and 87.7% doing the same in English.
- Waste minimisation is working with an 11% reduction in domestic waste being sent to landfill over the last three years. So whilst there has been small dip in the recycling figures the background figure for the total amount of waste being generated has fallen from 629kg per household to a forecast of 590kg per household. Recycling is projected to be at 44% for the end of year.
- In terms of Community Safety the major reduction in crime over the last four years with a 24% reduction in 2009/10 is a strong performance.
- There has been an increase in bus passenger journeys April-September compared to the same period last year.
- Unemployment in York is below the nation and regional averages. The numbers of young people who are NEET (Not in employment, education or training) remains one of the lowest in the North of England with the prospect of 100 young people now on level 1 training programmes.
- The Quarter 2 projections are for 225 affordable homes to be completed in York by the end of the year which is a 73% increase on

last year. The numbers of households reported as being in temporary accommodation has fallen from 209 in 2007/8 to 76 currently.



Indicator	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 Latest	2010-11 Target	Improving ?	On target ?
NPI 55: % of reception year children recorded as obese	8.4%	8.16%	6.7%	5.5%	8.5%	Yes	Yes
NPI 56: % of children in Year 6 recorded as being obese	15.6%	16.6%	16.7%	13.9%	15.4%	Yes	Yes

16 Long Term Waste Management Service Contract

The York and North Yorkshire waste partnership has been progressing this project for almost a decade, and so the recommendations come at the end of a series of milestones which have been systematically working to this point. Along the way a wide range of technologies and solutions have been considered, and MBT (Mechanical Biological Treatment) has been the preferred option for City of York Council. Companies were able to come forward with alternatives to Energy from Waste.

At the same time as developing the contract, and the procurement process the council has made tremendous steps forward with recycling. Going from 12% in 2003 to 44% currently, and in the meantime introducing garden waste collections, and bringing kerbside collections to almost every home in the city. Therefore the commitment of this council to recycling has been demonstrated very clearly.

Although the residents of York have responded fantastically to the recycling and waste minimisation message the money needed to improve the recycling

rates further by either capital investment or by “marketing” type measures is seeing a diminishing return. For example, we are currently spending £1/2 million to extend our doorstep recycling service for our terraced and hard-to-reach properties for a predicted 1% increase in recycling rates. This long term proposal guarantees to recycle a minimum of 5% of contract waste over the doorstep segregation.

This proposal is consistent with the Let’s Talk Less Rubbish waste strategy of York and North Yorkshire. It has been delivered through the Competitive Dialogue procedure with the Councils seeking to procure a solution to divert waste from landfill without specifying the technology. The bidders were free to propose solutions and sites that they felt were deliverable and offered the best value solution. The Waste PFI will give York residents a massive saving on disposal costs. It is projected that we can cut our waste management bill by over £60 million over 25 years compared to a projected bill of around £300 million over 25 year if we continue to landfill. It will guarantee the future costs we have to pay for treating our waste.

It guarantees to divert 90% of contract waste (95% of bio-degradable waste) from landfill with that waste becoming a resource and will recover value from waste in four ways:

- it separates remaining recyclable materials
- it treats garden and food waste to produce green electricity through Anaerobic Digestion (AD)
- the waste that remains is treated in the EfW plant to produce electricity.
- the ash that process produces can become a product for road construction.

By turning waste into energy we help to reduce our reliance on coal-fired power stations as it will produce enough electricity to supply 40,000 homes.

This solution could be delivered on any suitable site and therefore the site will be subject to a planning application to the County Council.

The Executive (12th September 2006) approved the submission of an Outline Business Case (OBC) to DEFRA. This was treated as a bid for PFI credits and the reference case was a Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant in York and Energy from Waste Plant within North Yorkshire. The Solid Residual Fuel from the MBT plant would be sent to EFW to produce energy, although the reference case did not preclude alternative solutions being proposed by bidders. An update on the OBC was presented to members (27th March 2007). At this meeting the Executive reaffirmed their support for Mechanical Biological Treatment as the preferred residual waste treatment process for York’s waste. It also noted the substantial savings that had been achieved over the period 2003-2007 due to the dramatic increase in recycling rates and successful waste minimisation campaigns run by City of York Council. The OBC was approved by Treasury Review Group 23rd July 2007 and PFI credits confirmed.

The Executive (26th June 2007) approved to commence formal procurement of residual waste treatment facilities in line with the Private Finance Initiative. It was approved at this stage that the proposed evaluation be that of Most Economically Advantageous Tender and to develop an evaluation criteria. The Executive formally approved the evaluation criteria 23rd October 2007. The criteria was set at 60% quality which includes landfill diversion performance and the environmental impact (including Ecological footprint) and 40% financial criteria which covers the price as well as the financial robustness of the bid.

17 York Housing Strategy, Older People's Housing Strategy 2011-15, and North Yorkshire Housing Strategy 2010-15

The York Housing Strategy and Older People's Housing Strategy develop and update the strategies that ran until 2009. Although we are asked to approve an overarching North Yorkshire Housing Strategy it was agreed that York did need it's own strategies but they have been developed to closely align with both the North Yorkshire strategy and the Leeds City Region Housing Investment Plan.

There are 6 strategic aims:-

1. Improve access to housing and housing services including appropriate information, advice and support
2. Making the most efficient use of the existing housing stock
3. Maximising the supply of new affordable homes
4. Improving the condition, energy efficiency and suitability of homes
5. Reducing homelessness and the causes of homelessness
6. Developing effective partnership working

These are backed by an action plan aimed at delivering improved housing for all residents. New homes will play a very small part in meeting our housing needs so it is imperative that we make best use of the homes we have, that they met residents needs and are in good condition and energy efficient. Ensuring people can access advice should ensure that they we can avoid residents reaching a crisis point, reducing the need for temporary accommodation and homelessness. Both are a drain on resources and can lead to a downward spiral for the people involved.

The Older People's Housing Strategy builds on the general strategy, focusing on the particular needs of older people. It also links into the Vision for Older People's Health and Well Being in York 2010-2015 which shows that the majority wish to remain in their own home and independent for as long as possible. The strategy identifies ways of ensuring older people can make informed choices, plan ahead so that they can live in their own homes for longer but that specialist accommodation is available for those who need it.

18 Pre-application Advice service

The Executive received a report of changes to be made to the Development Management function to formalise the provision of high quality, customer

focused pre-application service, and approved the introduction of new fees and charges as a contribution towards the cost of the discretionary service. There needs to be recognition that for businesses and residents alike that time is money, and that by having a more customer focussed service we can play our part in promoting York for job creation.

19 Anti Social Behaviour Strategy 2011-2014

This strategy draws together the work that is happening in this area into one coherent plan. There are resources that will still be available for tackling anti-social behaviour and this needs to work at its most effective. There are good results coming from Capable Guardian the benefits of need to be rolled out across the city. By sending it through the Safer York Partnership there is the opportunity for all partner agencies to be involved.

20 Financial Reports Considered by the Executive

- 5th Corporate Asset Management Plan which set out priorities and processes for dealing with the best use of the council's land and property.
- Review of fees and charges – to take account of the increase in VAT taking effect from 4th January 2011.
- Capital Programme Monitor 2
- Spending Review Implications on the 2011/12 Budget and More for York Update to meet the requirements of the motion to full council

21 Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Government gave support to the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership bid of which York is a key player. I shall be part of the interviewing panel for the Chair and business members of the LEP in early January. Work is still ongoing with the York and North Yorkshire LEP bid.

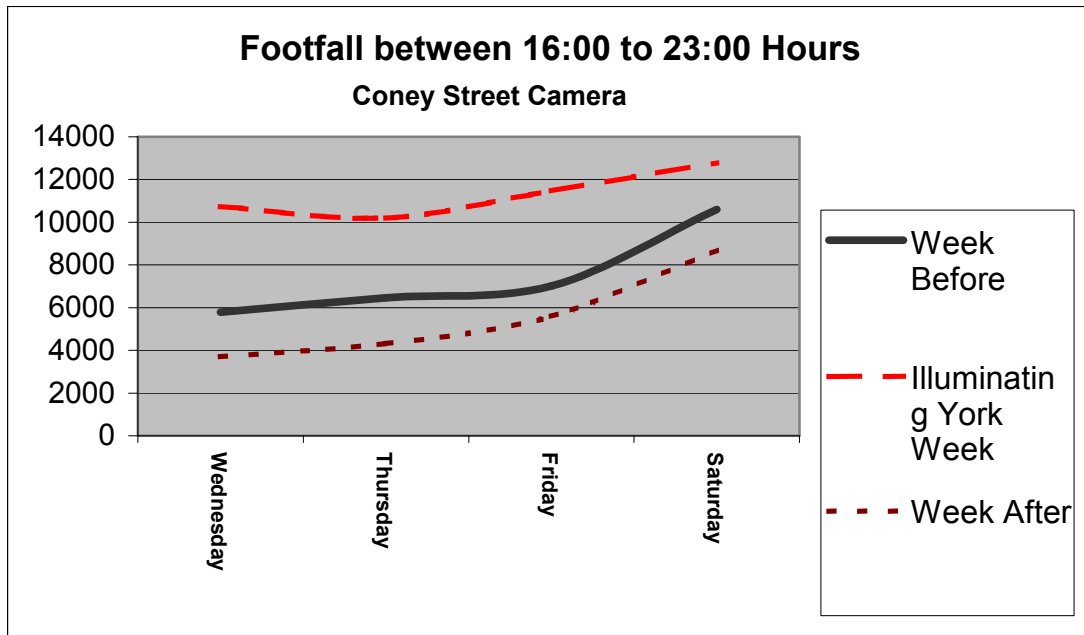
22 Fashion City York

I have been able to pass on the chairmanship of the group developing a 'Fashion week' in York to Russell Norton from Republic who being involved in fashion retail is probably more appropriate to lead this group. I would like to thank officers from the city centre and York Enterprise Team who have helped to get this initiative off the ground.

23 City Centre attractions

The Food Festival brought in record numbers to the City of York Council with the highest footfall record seen yet on the Parliament Street camera, with 284,051 being registered for that week with figures coming forward after my last report.

Also Illuminate with 'Rose' on the South Trancept of the Minster saw huge crowds come to York with significant numbers being picked up on the cameras in Coney Street and Parliament Street. An estimated 65,000 came to see the displays.



There will be many attractions with the Christmas season and I would like to thank everyone involved with helping to keep Ice Factor in York, and for putting on so many positive reasons for people to visit York.

Cllr Andrew Waller
Leader City of York Council