

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 4th October, 2007, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr Irene Waudby) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD	BISHOPTHORPE WARD
Horton Simpson-Laing	Galvin
CLIFTON WARD	DERWENT WARD
Douglas King Scott	Brooks
DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD	FISHERGATE WARD
Holvey Reid Sunderland	D'Agorne Taylor
FULFORD WARD	GUILDHALL WARD
Aspden	Looker B Watson
HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD	HESLINGTON WARD
Firth Hogg R Watson	Jamieson-Ball
HEWORTH WARD	HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD
Blanchard Potter	Ayre
HOLGATE WARD	HULL ROAD WARD
Alexander Bowgett Crisp	Cregan Pierce

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore □ Watt □

STRENSALL WARD

Kirk
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Funnell

28. FORMER COUNCILLOR BILL BENNETT

Members observed a minute's silence in respect of former Councillor Bill Bennett, who had died in July.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

30. MINUTES

The minutes of the special and ordinary Council meetings held on 28 June 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor, subject to an amendment to the attendance list in the latter, to list the Lord Mayor once, in the chair, and not under Members for Skelton, Rawcliffe & Clifton Without Ward.

31. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor announced receipt of the following gifts:

- A picture from Australia displayed at the bottom of the stairs in Guildhall Reception;
- A blue flag presented by visitors from the USA.

A golf trophy won by Fulford Golf Club, in a tournament against Riverton Country Club, USA, was also on display in the Council Chamber.

32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor reported that there had been three registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Alice Gomez addressed the meeting on behalf of the Save Yearsley Bridge Group, regarding the proposed closure of Yearsley Bridge Day Centre.

Tina Fernie spoke in support of a petition to stop anti-social behaviour in Rawcliffe.¹

Mark Warters spoke regarding City of York Council Public Footpath Osbaldwick No.6 Extinguishment Order June 2006 and the Planning Inspector's findings thereon.

Action Required

1 Refer petition to appropriate committee.

KS

33. PETITIONS

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

- i) A petition presented by Cllr Potter, on behalf of the Save Yearsley Bridge Group, regarding the proposed closure of Yearsley Bridge Day Centre;¹
- ii) A petition presented by Cllr Potter, on behalf of residents in Penyghent Avenue, requesting speed humps and traffic calming on the avenue;²
- iii) A petition presented by Cllr D'Agorne, on behalf of local residents, objecting to the proposal to demolish the Christian Science Church at the junction of Kilburn Road and Fulford Road and the plan to build 8 town-houses on the site, and calling for the Conservation Area to be extended to include this site;³
- iv) A petition presented by Cllr Scott, on behalf of residents at High Cliffe Court, regarding traffic issues;⁴
- v) A petition presented by Cllr Horton, on behalf of York residents, requesting more affordable housing in the City;⁵
- vi) A petition presented by Cllr Fraser, on behalf of businesses on Bishopthorpe Road, calling for CCTV coverage for the area;⁶
- vii) A petition presented by Cllr Aspden, on behalf of residents of Fulford, calling for Chapel Alley snicket to be adopted by the Council;⁷
- viii) A petition presented by Cllr Holvey, on behalf of residents of Woodthorpe, calling for the closure of the alleyway leading from Carrfield, between numbers 24 and 26 to Heron Avenue.⁸

Action Required

1 Refer petition to appropriate committee;

LE

2-8 Refer petitions to appropriate committees.

JB

34. NOTICES OF MOTION

Six notices of motion had been received. Councillor Steve Galloway therefore moved, Councillor Scott seconded and Council agreed a motion to suspend Standing Order 11(b), which limited the number of notices of motion to be discussed to five, so that all of the notices of motion could be considered.

(i) **Sale and Production of Foie Gras**

This motion had previously been referred to the Executive for consideration in accordance with Standing Order 11(a)(ii):

“Council notes that:

- To produce foie gras, at just 12 weeks old ducks and geese are restrained and grain is forced down the throat through a tube or pipe, a process that often results in physical injury;
- They are forcibly fed the equivalent to an adult human eating 1-28 lbs (7-13 kg) of spaghetti a day; and, after two or three weeks, when they are ready for slaughter, their livers will have swollen to about ten times normal size. The swollen liver expands the abdomen and can make movement and breathing difficult, as well as causing other health problems;
- Most ducks are kept in wire cages so small they have no room to turn around or stretch their wings, and their feet are often injured by the wire floor;
- Many die before the force feeding cycle ends, and the mortality rate for ducks raised on foie gras farms is overwhelmingly the highest in the industry;
- The force-feeding of geese is already outlawed in Poland, Denmark, Germany, Norway and Israel.

Council believes that:

- This intolerably cruel and painful practice is unnecessary and should end;
- The city of Chicago, USA, has shown tremendous compassionate leadership in its brave decision to ban foie gras in its shops and restaurants;
- The torture of small innocent animals should not be a matter of personal dietary choice.

Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Ben Bradshaw MP, Minister of State responsible for Animal Welfare, informing him of this motion and asking for the production and sale of foie gras to be banned in the UK;
- Do as much as reasonably possible to discourage or prohibit the sale of foie gras within the authority area, whether in shops or restaurants.”

As the proposer of the motion, Cllr Blanchard put forward an alteration with Council’s consent:

“Delete the final two bullet points after ‘Council resolves to’ and replace with:

- *‘Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Lord Rooker, the Minister for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health, stating the council’s concern regarding the sale of foie gras in the UK and requesting a review of central government policies on animal welfare issues;*
- *Ban the procurement of foie gras by the council;*
- *Ban sale of foie gras by the council on its premises;*
- *Place a link to the website of Compassion in World Farming on the council website;*
- *Inform representative hospitality organisations in the city of its view.’”*

The altered motion was then moved by Cllr Blanchard, and seconded by Cllr Scott:

“Council notes that:

- To produce foie gras, at just 12 weeks old ducks and geese are restrained and grain is forced down the throat through a tube or pipe, a process that often results in physical injury;
- They are forcibly fed the equivalent to an adult human eating 1-28 lbs (7-13 kg) of spaghetti a day; and, after two or three weeks, when they are ready for slaughter, their livers will have swollen to about ten times normal size. The swollen liver expands the abdomen and can make movement and breathing difficult, as well as causing other health problems;
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Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Lord Rooker, the Minister for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health, stating the council's concern regarding the sale of foie gras in the UK and requesting a review of central government policies on animal welfare issues;¹
- Ban the procurement of foie gras by the council;²
- Ban sale of foie gras by the council on its premises;³
- Place a link to the website of Compassion in World Farming on the council website;⁴
- Inform representative hospitality organisations in the city of its view.⁵

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

"To add an additional bullet point at the end, to read, 'Inform Market stallholders applying to supply deli/ continental food that the council has passed this motion and urge them to respect the views of the elected members of this city.'"

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

[2 votes for the amendment, 19 votes against the amendment, 24 abstentions.]

[Note: Cllrs D'Agorne and Taylor requested that their votes in support of the amendment be recorded.]

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

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

[44 votes for the motion, 0 votes against the motion, 2 abstentions.]

(ii) **Police Funding**

It was moved by Cllr Steve Galloway and seconded by Cllr Orrell that:

"Council places on record its support for the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire in his efforts to ensure that adequate government grant is provided to his force to ensure that, at least, as many Police Officers and PCSOs are available, to enforce the law on the streets of York, as are currently allocated".⁶

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

[46 votes for the motion, 0 votes against the motion, 0 abstentions.]

(iii) **Flooding**

It was moved by Cllr Kirk and seconded by Cllr Waller that:

"Council notes with concern the flooding caused around York this summer as a result of drainage systems being unable to cope with the level of rainfall.

Council calls for the government to introduce a statutory duty on the private water companies to review and upgrade drainage in line with the increased needs due to climate change, as well as to maintain drainage systems properly and make pumping stations proof against flooding."

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

"To add the words 'blocked gullies and the' to the first sentence after the words 'as a result of'.

To add two additional sentences at the end of the first paragraph to read:

'Council recognises that it has a duty to ensure that all the gully's in the City work to their maximum capacity. This should include not being blocked with detritus or not maintained due to roads or sewers also needing maintenance.'

To add an additional paragraph between the existing first and second paragraphs to read:

'Council firstly calls on CYC Officers to take an urgent review of the Gully Cleaning process in the City and report to Councillors all gullies which are damaged or blocked and need urgent work undertaken. Secondly, that Officers bring forward a scheme to undertake a maintenance program to ensure the situation is not repeated again.'

In the final paragraph, to add the words, 'usage of modern life and to investigate future capacity level changes and environmental security of

infrastructure, including pumping stations, which may result from' after 'increased', and delete the words, 'needs due to'.

To delete the words, 'as well as to maintain drainage systems properly and make pumping stations proof against flooding' and replace them with an additional sentence, to read, 'It is requested that funding for any work undertaken must not be funded through any increase in charges but from their profits.'"

As proposer of the amendment, Cllr Simpson-Laing put forward an alteration to the amendment with Council's consent:

"To no longer include an additional sentence at the end, to read, 'It is requested that funding for any work undertaken must not be funded through any increase in charges but from their profits.'"

[24 votes consenting to the alteration, 22 votes objecting to the alteration 0 abstentions.]

The altered amendment now read as follows:

"To add the words 'blocked gullies and the' to the first sentence after the words 'as a result of'.

To add two additional sentences at the end of the first paragraph to read:

'Council recognises that it has a duty to ensure that all the gully's in the City work to their maximum capacity. This should include not being blocked with detritus or not maintained due to roads or sewers also needing maintenance.'

To add an additional paragraph between the existing first and second paragraphs to read:

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In the final paragraph, to add the words, 'usage of modern life and to investigate future capacity level changes and environmental security of infrastructure, including pumping stations, which may result from' after 'increased', and delete the words, 'needs due to'.

To delete the words, 'as well as to maintain drainage systems properly and make pumping stations proof against flooding'."

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

[26 votes for the amendment, 20 votes against the amendment, 0 abstentions.]

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

"Council notes with concern the flooding caused around York this summer as a result of blocked gullies and the drainage systems being unable to cope with the level of rainfall. Council recognises that it has a duty to ensure that all the gully's in the City work to their maximum capacity. This should include not being blocked with detritus or not maintained due to roads or sewers also needing maintenance.

Council firstly calls on CYC Officers to take an urgent review of the Gully Cleaning process in the City and report to Councillors all gullies which are damaged or blocked and need urgent work undertaken.⁷ Secondly, that Officers bring forward a scheme to undertake a maintenance program to ensure the situation is not repeated again.⁸

Council calls for the government to introduce a statutory duty on the private water companies to review and upgrade drainage in line with the increased usage of modern life and to investigate future capacity level changes and environmental security of infrastructure, including pumping stations, which may result from climate change.”⁹

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

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

[26 votes for the motion, 2 votes against the motion, 18 abstentions.]

(iv) **Police Funding**

It was moved by Cllr Potter and seconded by Cllr Scott that:

“City of York Council calls upon North Yorkshire Police Authority to set a budget that adequately reflects the policing needs of York. Central area including York has 47% of the total crime in the area covered by NYP yet only received 33% of the total budget. This does not reflect the need for a higher level of policing in the York area due to the higher crime rate and is therefore not adequate. A redistribution of funding would ensure more Police on the streets of York to reduce crime and increase detection rates in the City.”¹⁰

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

[44 votes for the motion, 0 votes against the motion, 0 abstentions.]

(v) **Business in the Peripheral City Centre Streets**

It was moved by Cllr Fraser and seconded by Cllr Looker that:

“Council is concerned that, whilst businesses in the inner core of the City are thriving, some of the peripheral streets, such as Goodramgate, Micklegate and, to a lesser extent Fossgate, are not benefiting from this prosperity, and are, in some cases, taking on a somewhat “run down” look.

Further, Council notes that a review of the City’s footstreet scheme is currently underway, and determines that regard should be had to this issue, in the conduct of that review.

Finally, Council resolves to allocate adequate resources, including Officer time, to research this problem, and to develop an Action Plan, to include an economic regeneration strategy, to address this issue and to encourage a culture of vibrancy and prosperity, in these streets.”

Cllr Reid then moved, and Cllr Steve Galloway seconded, referral of the motion to the Executive for consideration with an officer report, under Standing Order 11(a)(ii)(b). On being put to the vote, the proposal to refer the motion to the Executive was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be referred to the Executive.¹¹

[46 votes for referral, 0 votes against referral, 0 abstentions.]

(vi) **Dualling of the Northern Ring Road**

It was moved by Cllr Gillies and seconded by Cllr Watt that:

"We call upon The City of York Council to petition the Secretary of State for Transport, with immediate effect, to provide funding for the dualling of the York Northern Ring Road at the earliest opportunity."

Cllr Simpson-Laing then moved, and Cllr Reid seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

"Delete the words, 'We call upon' at the start of the motion.

Delete the words, 'to petition' and replace them with, 'will seek immediate discussions, between the Leaders of the ruling and main opposition parties with'.

Delete the words, 'with immediate effect, to provide', and replace them with, 'to request the provision of'.

Delete the words, 'for the dualling', and replace them with, 'at the earliest opportunity, to upgrade junctions and other aspects'.

Add the words, 'for the benefit of all road users', at the end of the existing motion.

Add a further additional paragraph, to read:

'The City of York Council requests this increased funding in the light of the Future York report, and recent Government proposals to increase housing and economic development planning targets for York, which have increased the need for urgent additional public investment, via the Regional Funding Allocation or other funding opportunities, to pay for major improvements to transport systems in the City. Such discussions should recognise that any upgrading of the ring road will be part of a comprehensive approach to traffic management in the whole city, as part of a programme of overall traffic reduction and sustainable transport priority within the A1237/A64 ring, while also protecting York's economic success and ensuring the protection of its environment'."

On being put to the vote, the amendment to the above notice of motion was declared CARRIED.

[39 votes for the amendment, 7 votes against the amendment, 0 abstentions.]

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“The City of York Council will seek immediate discussions, between the Leaders of the ruling & main opposition parties with the Secretary of State for Transport, to request the provision of funding, at the earliest opportunity, to upgrade junctions and other aspects of the York Northern Ring Road, for the benefit of all road users.¹²”

The City of York Council requests this increased funding in the light of the Future York report, and recent Government proposals to increase housing and economic development planning targets for York, which have increased the need for urgent additional public investment, via the Regional Funding Allocation or other funding opportunities, to pay for major improvements to transport systems in the City. Such discussions should recognise that any upgrading of the ring road will be part of a comprehensive approach to traffic management in the whole city, as part of a programme of overall traffic reduction and sustainable transport priority within the A1237/A64 ring, while also protecting York's economic success and ensuring the protection of its environment.”

The amended motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

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

[39 votes for the motion, 0 votes against the motion, 7 abstentions.]

Action Required

1 Letter to Lord Rooker;	SC
2 Ban on procurement of foie gras;	SA
3 Ban on sale of foie gras by the Council;	KS
4 Add website link;	KS
5 Contact hospitality organisations;	KS
6 Letter to Chief Constable;	KS
7 Review of gully cleaning process and report to Members;	JB
8 Bring forward maintenance program scheme;	JB
9 Letter to government;	JB
10 Letter to Police Authority;	KS
11 Report to the Executive;	JB
12 Seek discussions with the Secretary of State.	JB

35. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

A written report was received from the Leader, Cllr Steve Galloway, on the work of the Executive. He then moved, and Cllr Jamieson-Ball seconded, the minutes requiring confirmation from the Executive meeting on 25 September 2007, namely:

- Minute 64 – Setting out the long-term direction for the Council: Corporate Strategy 2007-2011.¹

RESOLVED: That the above minutes and the recommendations of the Executive be approved.

[27 votes for the motion, 0 votes against the motion, 18 abstentions.]

Action Required

1 Implement the refreshed Corporate Strategy.

GR

36. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

A written report was received from Cllr Reid, the Executive Member for City Strategy.

Notice had been received of 9 questions put by Members in accordance with Standing Orders, as follows and as set out on the list circulated around the Council Chamber:

(i) From Cllr Hyman:

"Can the Executive Member outline the reasons for the projected overspend in the Concessionary Fares budget?"

"Members will be aware that, despite the original negotiations with all the bus companies and a government grant that reflected the outcome of those negotiations the Concessionary Fares system allowed bus companies to appeal. First appealed nationally and were successful. The Council was required to pay additional £274k reimbursement to First York in 2006/07 which was funded by a one-off release from reserves. However no provision is available for 2007/08.

As you will see from my report there has been a further increase in the number of passes issued compared to that of tokens. A significant increase in bus usage by eligible pass holders and increased bus fares have lead to additional claims for reimbursement.

*The forecasted overspend is made up of:-
£274k unfunded costs arising from appeal decision,
£43k inflationary increases by First York,
£51k of additional claims settled by the North Yorkshire Concessionary Fares partnership affecting CYC,
£372k worth of growth in the number of journeys.*

To put this in context in 2005/06 when the fare was 50p return there were 1 million journeys on First buses. 3 million journeys are forecasted for 2007/08.

Although welcoming this increase in bus patronage we are in the same situation as many other Local Authorities in that we have a deficit budget through no fault of our own. When the Government offers free bus travel for pensioners then it should at least have the decency to

fully fund it rather than expecting the general taxpayer to pick up the difference.

We will no doubt be in a similar difficult financial situation next year when the national scheme is introduced.”

(ii) From Cllr Simpson-Laing:

“Can the Executive Member map out the timetable, up to 2011, for work on LTP3 including her envisaged levels of public consultation?”

“Cllr Simpson-Laing is, of course, aware that although LTP is funded until 2011 the process involved us indicating our plans for a 15 year period up to 2021. Therefore we will not be starting from scratch but rather building on what we are doing now.

To support that, the Dft have stated that they expect the local transport plan process to carry on beyond 2011, however, this assumes that there will be no change in government.

Clearly if Labour were to lose power changes could be the expected. So far no guidance has been received from the DfT and it would be foolish to waste resources and undertake work now in advance of any official guidance which will come from the Dft in due course.

The guidance, if it is as detailed as previous LTPs, will give a detailed timetable of the process and what is expected from Local Authorities, including consultation, and which priorities the plan should address such as Accessibility, Road Safety, Congestion and Air Quality.

Normally preliminary discussion into the production of an LTP would commence towards the end of the third year of the plan. This would, however, depend on whether a provisional plan needed to be submitted prior to the full plan, as has been the case with both previous LTP's. To give a detailed timetable of what we propose to do when we are only part way through the second year of the current plan would be pre-empting the process.

It is envisaged that a similar level of consultation to that undertaken for both LTP1 and LTP2 would take place to gauge the opinions of the York population and other key stakeholders. I would remind members that our consultation process for LTP2 was cited as best practice by the Dft and I have no reason to suspect that we will not be equally successful next time.”

(iii) From Cllr Simpson-Laing:

“With regard to Park & Ride patronage can the Executive Member give the anticipated levels of use that would have been achieved if the A59 Park & Ride had not been delayed and explain what effect this removal of vehicles would have had on the Peak Am traffic flows on the A59, inside the Outer Ring Road, and the Inner Ring Road?”

“Estimating the anticipated park and ride usage is dependant upon a number of factors including traffic flow on the A59 and adjacent routes, the fares scheme, the journey time and the standard of the service.

Morning peak hour usage was expected to be in the region of 100 cars when the site was originally proposed in 2002. This compares to an average of 550 peak hour cars at Rawcliffe Bar, 500 at Askham Bar, 600 at Monks Cross. I would assume that the majority of those 100 would normally be accessing the City Centre so that would be a reduction of 100 cars on the A59. However, modeling work showed that there would be some movement from existing P & R sites so some of those 100 vehicles might not actually be using the A59 now. It was anticipated that there would be a reduction in traffic on the A59 at peak times and an improvement to air quality in the area but perhaps not as great as the raw figures might suggest. Cllr Simpson-Laing will be aware that the Faber Maunsell report showed that until the York Central development was in place the viability of this site was questionable.

The latest transport model suggests a predicted am peak usage of 400 cars in 2021 with all projected developments in place and improvements to the public transport system undertaken. Detailed information using the latest transport model is not available for variations to current traffic levels as the scheme is not programmed to be implemented before 2011.”

(iv) From Cllr Richard Watson:

"Can the Executive Member give more details of the Road Safety Programme?"

“We are delighted that the Road Safety grant has allowed a coordinated programme to be drawn up targeting known “at risk” groups.

Work related driving under the banner Your Driving Your Business has focussed on employers who require employees to drive as part of their job. We have worked in Partnership with the Chamber of Commerce on targeted road safety campaigns, developing a toolbox resource on managing road risk and Business Travel Plans. The latest campaign was entitled “Don’t get Blood on your hands ”to help employers understand safer business driving.

For Young drivers/passengers there is a campaign entitled Alive2Drive which includes posters and street theatre; a Young driver image campaign; powered-two-wheel training; a Pass Plus discount scheme which is course for young drivers after they have passed their test and we are also working towards an Interactive DVD.

Work in schools is ongoing with a primary school Be Safe Be Seen campaign, Road Safety theatre in education and the provision of resources to compliment road safety training and the school travel

service. In Secondary schools there has been Smart Risk productions and Bereaved parent workshops.

To complement the Main route speed campaigns we have produced Community Speed Watch materials.

The next campaign to be launched in October "It's not me. It's other drivers" is aimed at experienced drivers and includes a "test your driving event" in the City Centre.

Partnership work with North Yorkshire Police supports additional targeted enforcement in support of campaign work and we worked with North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service when the changes to child car seats requirements were introduced.

The Council also supports national campaigns such as those based on based on DfT research into the most common contributory factors in road crashes and analysis of over a thousand fatal crashes. There are also 4 projects per year as part of the National THINK! Campaign. The funding also allows us to undertake qualitative research to assess the impact of the programme."

The Guillotine fell at this point in the meeting and Members agreed to accept written answers to the remaining questions.¹

(v) From Cllr Scott:

"Will the Executive Member pledge to work towards increasing the age usage for YoZone Cards up to 18 yrs, as a way to encourage bus usage, and look to extend the 9.30pm barrier to at least 10pm to help many young people who attend evening activities across the City?"

(vi) From Cllr Merrett:

"Can the Executive Member explain why First have withdrawn the 10 ticket and give Council details of her discussions with First over this matter?"

(vii) From Cllr Moore:

"I note that the dig at Hungate is the biggest archaeological project in the City since Coppergate, are there are plans for educational visits to this dig?"

(viii) From Cllr Simpson-Laing:

"With regard to road safety, can the Executive Member explain the increase of both traffic on York's roads, as recently reported at the Traffic Congestion Scrutiny, and the increase in KSI number's as recently reported to the Executive?"

(ix) From Cllr Simpson-Laing:

"Whilst the Executive Member is keen to report the success in the area of Car Parking can she comment and explain the reason for its outstanding failure, that being compared with other similar Local

Authorities CYC has more Parking Attendants who issue less PCN's, and spend less of their working day on patrolling?"

Action Required

1 Circulate written answers to questions.

GR

37. EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER FORMAL URGENCY PROCEDURES

In accordance with Section 5 of the Council's Access to Information Protocol, the Leader, Cllr Steve Galloway, moved, and Cllr Jamieson-Ball seconded, receipt of a report detailing the key decisions which had been taken by the Executive and Executive Members between 1 April 2007 and 30 September 2007 under formal urgency procedures.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

38. QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 10(C)

In accordance with Standing Order 10(c)(i), the following questions had been put and the following written responses had been given, as set out on the list circulated around the Council Chamber:

(i) To the Executive Member for Youth & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Fraser:

"Would the Executive Member for Youth & Social Inclusion outline one ambition for his coming year in office?"

"I am enjoying working with a wide range of people and community groups as Executive Member for Youth and Social Inclusion. It is vital that the Council continues to promote good community relations, and many developments, such as the revised Social Inclusion Working Group, the new Children and Young People's Champion and the recent equalities conferences, build on the Council's progress on this area. One ambition, as previously reported, will be in developing the next Equality Strategy (2008-11) for the Council. The new Strategy will be launched in April. There is a lot of work being done over the next 6 months to make sure it includes key issues from local minority communities and work to support staff in making equalities improvements in both service provision and employment."

(ii) To the Executive Member for Youth & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Holvey:

"Could the Executive Member report on progress, especially internet based progress, for the Youth Offer?"

"The YorOK website will be developed with two sections, a service directory which is a searchable online directory by categories,

keywords, postcode and A-Z, and information and guidance pages, a series of pages more like a traditional website. The service directory will host the youth offer, whereby children and young people will be able to search, for example, for activities and groups within their local areas. We will be able to test the site for functionality and errors in October, meaning that the website will be launched to children and young people in November.”

(iii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr D’Agorne:

“In view of the possibility of an October General Election, what action is being taken to ensure that students are not dis-enfranchised by the inconvenient timing and what budgetary contingencies are being made for the administrative costs of a General Election?”

“No special registration arrangements have been made in respect of an October General Election. The date for announcing such an election has now, in any event, passed. Any General Elections costs, which may not be reimbursable, will be accommodated from reserves as has always been the practice.”

(iv) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

“Would the Executive Member for City Strategy explain whether she is satisfied that the highways drainage system is adequate in capacity and maintenance terms to prevent flooding in the light of the predicted higher rainfalls expected with global warming?”

“Our concerns about the drainage systems in the city have been clearly highlighted by the motion before Council tonight but there are technical issues underlying the problems.

The City's highway drainage system is principally served by Yorkshire Water's sewerage system but there are isolated systems that are the responsibility of the Highway Authority. Many of the sewerage systems for the historic core of the city were constructed in the early part of the previous century and not surprisingly are of inadequate capacity and of variable condition. Modern developments have been constructed to modern standards, have better capacity and are generally in better condition.

Over time existing drainage systems can become affected by a build up of silt, ground movement and settlement as well as damaged by tree roots and work carried out on the highway. This reduces capacity but often doesn't become apparent for some time. The heavy rainfall at the end of June brought a number of such problems to light.

Historically the only pro-active maintenance carried out to drainage systems is gully emptying although Yorkshire Water do carry out limited maintenance work to their sewerage system.

Drainage systems are designed to cater for rainfall of a particular intensity and duration. They have never been designed to cater for all rainfall events with differing intensity and duration.

However, there will be an increasing number of locations around the city where localised flooding of roads and some properties may occur if climate change results in rainfall events of increased intensity or duration.

The highway drainage system will not always be adequate enough to prevent flooding problems occurring for every rainfall event and if those events increase in frequency then the likelihood of flooding will also increase.”

(v) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Brian Watson:

“Will the Executive Member for City Strategy confirm what will be the actual floor space, at ground level, for the community space in Hungate?”

“There will be a Focal Building of approximately 37,456 sq ft of which no more than 8,000 sq ft will be provided for community space uses. This is the requirement of the S106. As it is likely to be part of a larger building further information won’t be known until the detailed designs are submitted and hence it is not possible to say what proportion of the community space could be provided at ground floor level.”

(vi) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

“Can the Executive Member for City Strategy explain to Council how she is planning to improve the staffing levels in City Strategy, which are at a low point, so that staff job satisfaction levels do not dip below 50% again, a result of the huge pressure currently being placed on staff due to the current workloads?”

“The City Strategy Directorate does have a significant workload, particularly in relation to major development sites, Local Development Framework, 2 PFI schemes and Future York group work.

However Cllr Simpson-Laing is incorrect when she quotes staff satisfaction levels at below 50%. The recent staff survey shows overall job satisfaction in City Strategy to be at 61%. The lowest level was in September 2002, when it was 55%, when Cllr Simpson-Laing was the Executive Member.

The Directorate takes the staff survey very seriously and the management team has issued a newsletter, showing an initial analysis of the issues raised in the recent staff survey. It is progressing an action plan to address specific concerns particularly in relation to recognition of good work, communications, job security and personal development and training.

There were some very positive aspects of the staff survey results, particularly in relation to working well with colleagues and managers, information and communication, working corporately and the lack of bullying and harassment across the directorate.

(vii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D'Agorne:

“What would the cost of 'dualling the outer ring road' be, what would that represent in terms of council tax increase per household and what would be the merits or otherwise of prioritising such expenditure over more sustainable transport measures for the whole city?”

“The 2004 report suggested a cost of £140 million which is approximately equivalent, using prudential borrowing, to a Council Tax increase of 28%. The Local Transport Plan outlines a balance package of measures which includes improving the ring road junctions and developing more sustainable transport measures. As our LTP grant is less than £20m over 5years, having an extra £140 million to spend, would, I believe enable us to deliver a first class transport system across the city.”

(viii) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Looker:

“The public are becoming concerned at the continuing increase in the costs of the new 'Town Hall'. Can the Executive Member for Corporate Services assure the Council that the arrangements for project and cost control are sufficiently robust to ensure that sufficient, suitable offices will be provided on time and within the latest approved costs?”

“As Cllr Looker will no doubt be aware the report to the Executive on 24th July indicated that the net affordability of the Accommodation Project has improved with greater long term savings now forecast than previously. The project is being closely monitored by an all party working group.”

(ix) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr D'Agorne:

“In view of the £65m funding from the government towards the waste PFI, is the Executive Member now convinced that the 'affordability gap' on top of the other short term budgetary pressures can be bridged, without increasing council tax beyond the capping limit in any one year?”

“The Council, through the Executive, has agreed to fund the affordability gap to make the Waste PFI project viable at its meetings on 12 June 2006, 27 March 2007 and 26 June 2007. When compared with the other options available, the cost of the PFI project has been found to be £192m less expensive than doing nothing.”

(x) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Firth:

"How much Landfill Tax has been collected from York, and how much has been returned as grants for recycling to date?"

"Since 1996 City of York Council has paid almost £13 million in Landfill Tax, with £3.25 million so far in grants. However it is worth informing members that so far there has been no sign that the £494,200 we are due to receive in grants this financial year will be continuing in further years which will put severe pressure on the recycling budgets."

(xi) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Taylor:

"Several residents of Fishergate and other city centre Wards have mentioned to me that the City of York Council is still failing to provide a full recycling service to all residents. The Council automatically provides waste collection services to all new flats but not the collection of recyclables. Would the Executive Member act swiftly to redress this issue, particularly in respect of new blocks of flats which could easily accommodate communal recycling facilities?"

"I am pushing officers to fully utilise all available resources to address this issue and there is a report going to Executive on 9th October which details the long term costs of additional recycling rounds which I hope will receive all party support."

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

A written report was received from Cllr Galvin, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council on 28 June 2007.

40. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- *Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority (minutes of meetings on 1 May 2007, 5 June 2007 and 3 July 2007);*
- *Pension Fund Committee (minutes of meeting on 17 May 2007);*
- *North Yorkshire Police Authority (minutes of meeting 25 June 2007);*
- *Association of North Yorkshire Councils (minutes of meeting on 14 March 2007);*
- *North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (minutes of meetings on 26 March 2007 and 18 June 2007);*
- *Regional Transport Board (minutes of meetings on 20 April 2007 and 15 June 2007);*
- *Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (minutes of meeting on 29 June 2007);*
- *Safer York Partnership/Drug Action Team Partnership Board (minutes of meetings on 11 April 2007 and 30 July 2007).*

41. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

- RESOLVED: (i) That a variation to the proportionality on Planning Committee and Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee be approved, whilst maintaining the overall proportionality and political balance of the Council, as set out in a report circulated with the Council summons, and the revised list of appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies, circulated around the Council Chamber, be approved;¹
- (ii) That amendments to the Council's current policy on the appointment of Honorary Aldermen be approved, to include county council service, as set out in a report circulated with the Council summons.²

Action Required

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| 1 Update membership details on committee management system and notify outside bodies; | GR |
| 2 Arrange special meeting of Council to appoint additional Honorary Alderman. | GR |

Councillor Irene Waudby
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.05 pm]