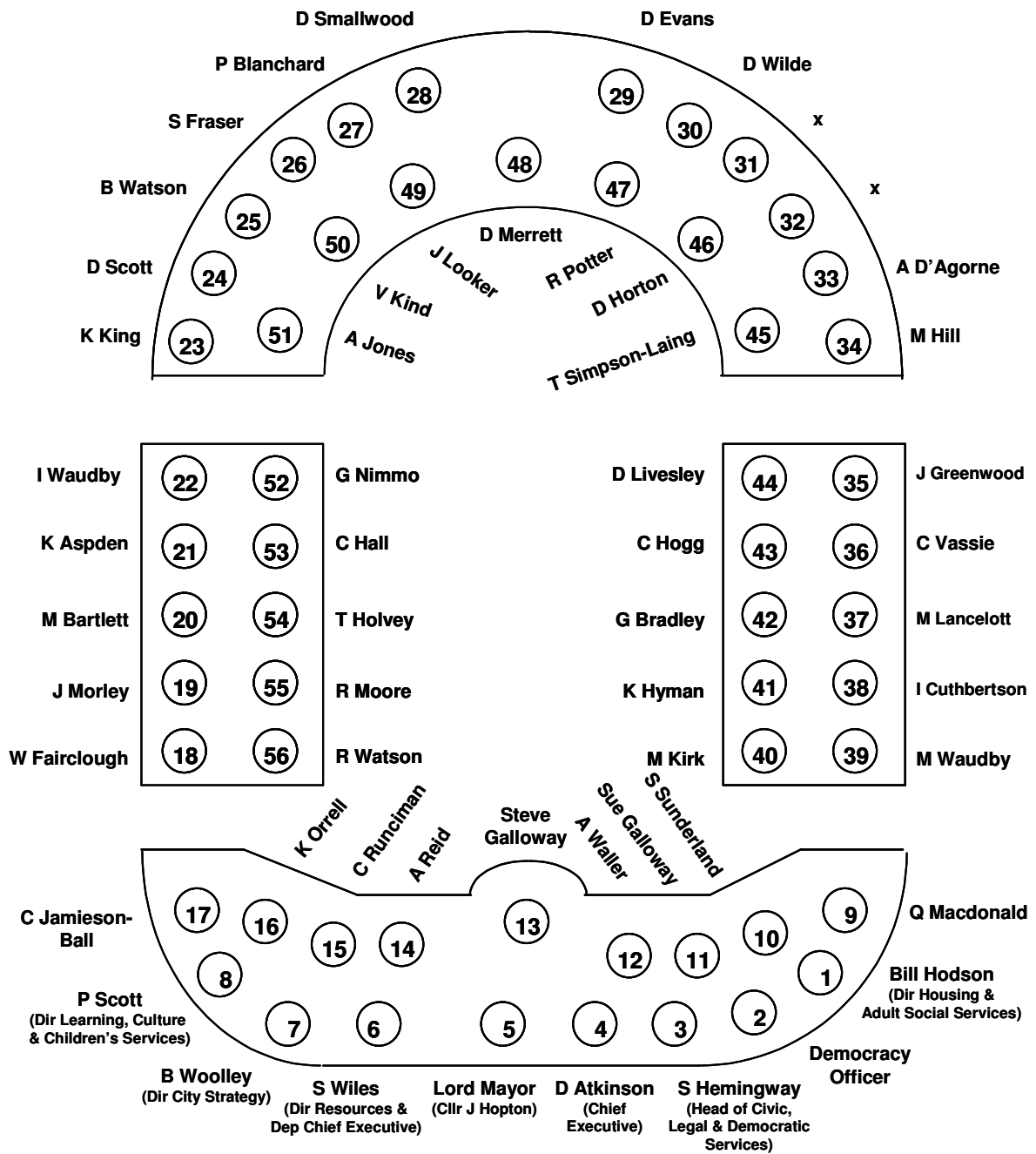


CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

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

Thursday, 25 January 2007 at 6.30 pm

COUNCIL CHAMBER PLAN



A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 30)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Special and the Ordinary meetings of Council held on 30th November 2006.

3. Civic Announcements

To consider any announcements made by the Lord Mayor in respect of Civic business, and in particular the nomination of the Lord Mayor Elect and the Sheriff of York for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

4. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the remit of Council can do so. Anyone who wishes to register, or requires further information, is requested to contact the Principal Democracy Officer. Contact details are listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering to speak is **5:00 pm on Wednesday, 24th January 2007.**

5. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 7, including the following, of which notice has been received:

- A petition from local residents seeking improvements to the area around Plantation Shops, Boroughbridge Road. To be presented by Cllr Simpson-Laing.

6. Notices of Motion

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

(i) From Cllr Horton:

“This Council notes that:

- There is a housing crisis in the City, as evidenced by the draft Fordham Housing Market Assessment, showing the vast majority of newly formed households unable to afford either house purchase with a mortgage or private sector rents (on the normal affordability criterion);
- The current Liberal Democrat support is for a lower regional housing allocation for York that can only exacerbate the York house price premium, as supply will be reduced by a third compared to the house building rates in York over the last six years;
- Many families have been forced out of the City due to rising house prices;
- Those people that do stay in the City, particularly those on low incomes, often have to live in poorer quality, overcrowded housing;
- Living in overcrowded residences can lead to poor mental and physical health.

This Council welcomes the Government’s Barker report, about providing new housing to meet projected need, and calls upon the Executive Member to work with the Government and the Regional Assembly to increase the supply of affordable family housing in York.”

(ii) From Cllr Potter:

“Council notes with regret that the Environment Forum is no longer represented on the Local Strategic Partnership Board, leaving the large environmental voluntary sector with no direct input into the ‘Without Walls’ vision and forthcoming review of the community strategy.

Council believes that this situation does not properly reflect how important environmental issues are to the City and its residents.

Council requests the ‘Without Walls’ Board to ensure that the Environment Forum are allocated a formal place on the LSP Board and mandates the Council’s nominees on the Board to support this.”

(iii) From Cllr Blanchard:

“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.

(iv) From Cllr Kirk:

“City of York Council calls on the Secretary of State for

Health to write off the historic debt that the new North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust inherited from its predecessor Trusts.”

(v) From Cllr Steve Galloway:

“Council notes the major achievements of Members and staff in providing good quality public services, and improved value for money, since May 2003.

In particular, Council highlights:

1. The success of the York Pride and the Safe City campaigns, which have resulted in a cleaner and greener City and reducing crime levels;
2. Continuing low Council Tax levels, with York residents now paying an average of £112 per annum less for services than similar councils elsewhere, while the number of public service quality indicators, achieving above the national performance, has increased to 63%;
3. The opening of the excellent household waste recycling centre at Hazel Court and the dramatic increase in recycling rates in the City;
4. The opening of the Eco Depot and the contribution that it and other initiatives are making to establishing a truly sustainable City;
5. the opening of several new schools and the sustained improvement in exam results seen since 2003;
6. the record numbers using teenagers’ leisure facilities, including the innovative “Schools Out” programme and the new mobile play and sport buses;
7. That social services customers in York continue to enjoy much easier access to Council care services than in neighbouring areas and that many Social Services buildings have been modernised during the last 4 years;
8. The reduction in the housing waiting list and the success of the housing modernisation programme, which is on schedule to reach ‘decent homes’ standards by central government deadlines;
9. The best performing Park and Ride service in the country, with 3 million passengers expected to use the service this year and – against national trends – the substantial growth in the use of public transport in

the City;

10. The impact of what has been the largest ever footpath and road resurfacing programme ever seen in the City.

Council remains confident that the City will be an increasingly attractive place in which to live, work and play during the forthcoming decades and looks forward to working with residents and partners to sustain and build on the successes of recent years.”

7. Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations (Pages 31 - 38)

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

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Executive	19 December 2006	Minute 131 – Local Government Pension Scheme – Scheme Changes and Local Discretions
Executive	16 January 2007	Minute 143 – Amendments to Council Constitution (<i>to follow</i>)
Executive Member for Leisure and Culture and Advisory Panel	16 January 2007	Minute 29 - Library Service Restructure (<i>to follow</i>)

8. Report of Executive Member (Pages 39 - 40)

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

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

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

(i) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Hyman:

“Would the Executive Leader confirm the % increase in Council Tax implemented between 1999 and 2003 and contrast that with the present administration’s performance?”

(ii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Hyman:

“Would the Executive Leader comment on the adequacy of job advisory services in the City and in particular detail the work undertaken by Future Prospects during the year?”

(iii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Holvey:

“Would the Leader agree to ask – now that capacity problems at the monitoring suite at the police station have been resolved – for a report on the options for modernisation and extension of CCTV coverage in the City to be prepared and would he say what obstacles there could be to the extension of the service into suburban shopping areas?”

(iv) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Holvey:

“Would the Executive Leader indicate what options for funding the government backed Waste and Highways PFI projects he is considering? Would he say what the consequences would be if either of these projects did not go ahead?”

(v) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Moore:

“Would the Executive Member comment on claims that the costs of the new City Hall offices which are to be built for the Council are ‘spiralling’ and would he detail what the financial implications for the project are expected to be for Council Taxpayers over the next 20 years?”

(vi) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Moore:

“Would the Executive Member indicate how Council Tax collection rates are progressing and contrast this with performance in previous years and with other authorities?”

(vii) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Hill:

“In view of the tight restrictions to be placed upon the use of alternative commercial accommodation at Clifton Moor, what does the future hold for the Parkside Centre’s commercial tenants?”

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

“Can the Executive Member explain the present situation regarding the inadequate ticket machines on the ftr?”

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

“Can the Executive Member inform Members when the Council plans to draw up planning guidelines to stop or reduce the sub-division of family and terraced houses?”

(x) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:

“Can the Executive Member for City Strategy confirm how many existing residential streets have been adopted since 2003, and how many have been requested for adoption by residents?”

(xi) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Vassie:

“Would the Executive Member compare – in real terms – car parking charges, which are proposed to apply for the forthcoming year, with those approved by the previous administration? Would she detail the increase in car parking charges applied during the period 1999-2003 with those that have been made during the course of the present administration?”

(xii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Vassie:

“Would the Executive Member compare the investment made by the present Council in highways maintenance with that of the previous administration?”

(xiii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Vassie:

“Would the Executive Member detail the increase in the use of public transport in the City achieved over the last 4 years?”

(xiv) To the Executive Member for Adult Social Services, from Cllr Greenwood:

“Would the Executive Member say how long social services clients are waiting in York for care services to be allocated and contrast this with the performance in previous years and with other authorities?”

(xv) To the Executive Member for Housing, from Cllr Hill:

“Has the City of York Council Housing department lost the confidence of its tenants?”

(xvi) To the Executive Member for Leisure & Culture, from Cllr Lancelott:

“Would the Executive Member please confirm how much the Council will receive from the sale of the lease of the Barbican auditorium to Absolute Leisure compared to the offer received, and supported by, the Council’s Executive in 2002?”

(xvii) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:

“When will a report be brought forward setting out a timescale and strategy for offering waste recycling collections from apartments and similar developments within the City?”

(xviii) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:

“How many days do you consider is reasonable time to elapse following the end of a period of flooding before the

riverside cycle / footpaths to the south of the City are cleared of mud?”

(xix) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr D’Agorne:

“When do you expect the leaves / detritus from 2006 might be removed from City paths, verges and gutters?”

10. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of SMC (Pages 41 - 42)

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

11. Activities of Outside Bodies

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

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

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

- Association of North Yorkshire Councils (minutes of meeting 13 November)
- North Yorkshire Police Authority (minutes of meeting 6 November)

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

12. Appointments and Changes to Membership (Pages 43 - 44)

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

13. Urgent Business

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

Principal Democracy Officer:

Name: Fiona Young

Contact details:

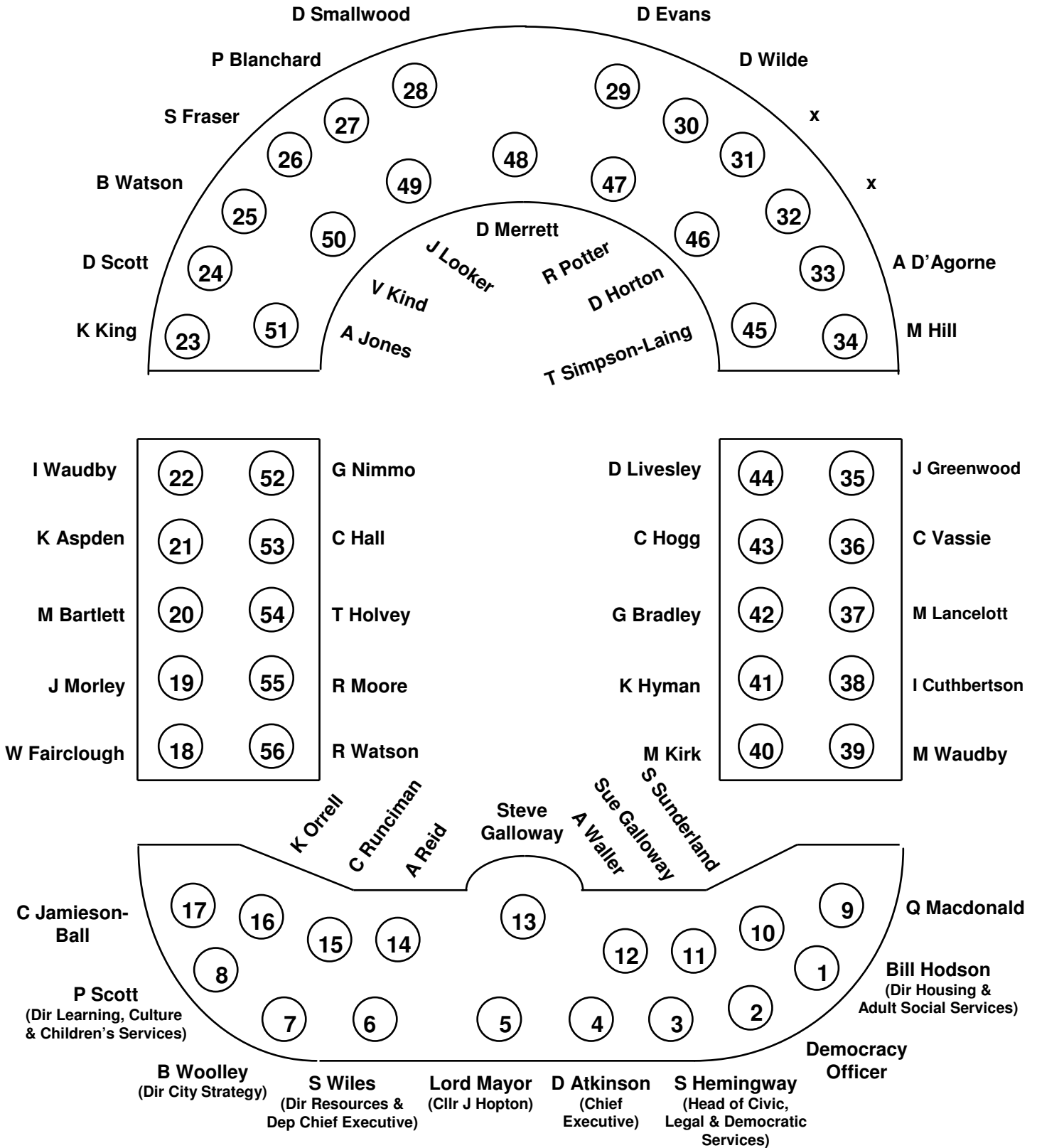
- Telephone – (01904) 551024
- E-mail – fiona.young@york.gov.uk

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

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

Contact details are set out above.

COUNCIL CHAMBER PLAN



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CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in on Thursday, 30th November, 2006, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Councillor Janet Hopton) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

Horton
Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Livesley

CLIFTON WARD

King
Scott

DERWENT WARD

Greenwood

DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD

Reid
Sunderland

FISHERGATE WARD

D'Agorne

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker
B Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Hall
Hogg

HESLINGTON WARD

HEWORTH WARD

Blanchard
Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Lancelott

HOLGATE WARD

Fairclough
Nimmo

HULL ROAD WARD

Smallwood

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Bradley
Macdonald

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore
I Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Cuthbertson
Kirk

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bartlett, Evans, Fraser, Hill, Holvey, Jamieson-Ball, Jones, Kind, Vassie, R Watson, M Waudby and Wilde

HONORARY FREEMAN

1. The Lord Mayor stated the object of the meeting, under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as being to consider a motion to confer the status of Honorary Freeman upon **Joyce Pickard**.

Councillor D'Agorne then moved and Councillor Steve Galloway seconded the following motion:-

“That pursuant to its powers under Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do confer upon Joyce Pickard the title of Honorary Freeman of the City of York, in formal recognition of her contribution to her work in promoting social justice in the City.”

On being put to the vote, it was then unanimously

RESOLVED: (i) To confer the status of Honorary Freeman of the City of York upon Joyce Pickard, as proposed; and

(ii) To note that a separate formal civic occasion will be organised, on behalf of the Lord Mayor, on a date to suit the convenience of the new Honorary Freeman.

There being no further business, the Lord Mayor closed the meeting.

Councillor Janet Hopton
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 6.35 pm]

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in on Thursday, 30th November, 2006, starting at 6.35 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Councillor Janet Hopton) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD	BISHOPTHORPE WARD
Horton Simpson-Laing	Livesley
CLIFTON WARD	DERWENT WARD
King	Greenwood
DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD	FISHERGATE WARD
Reid	D'Agorne Hill
FULFORD WARD	GUILDHALL WARD
Aspden	Looker B Watson
HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD	HESLINGTON WARD
Hall Hogg	
HEWORTH WARD	HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD
Potter	Lancelott
HOLGATE WARD	HULL ROAD WARD
Fairclough Nimmo	Smallwood
HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK WARD	MICKLEGATE WARD
Hyman Orrell Runciman	Fraser Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Bradley
Macdonald

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore
I Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Cuthbertson
Kirk

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bartlett, Blanchard, Evans, Holvey, Jamieson-Ball, Jones, Kind, Vassie, R Watson, M Waudby and Wilde

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. The Chair invited Members to declare at this point any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. Councillor Merrett declared a personal interest in relation to question 6 to Councillor Reid under the Minute below regarding 'Questions to Executive Members', by virtue of the fact that he lived in a street which had received a letter about adoption of that street.

MINUTES

2. The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 5 October 2006 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. The Lord Mayor announced the receipt of the following gifts to the City, which were on view in the Council Chamber:
 - A replica of Brooklyn Bridge, received from the President of the City of Brooklyn, New York;
 - A glass Waterford crystal bowl, received from Compass in commemoration of their 20th Anniversary.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4. The Lord Mayor reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

PETITIONS

5. The following petitions were presented by Members under Standing Order 7:
 - a) A petition on behalf of local residents calling for a crossing and traffic safety measures on Mill Lane, Wigginton, presented by Cllr Hogg;
 - b) A petition on behalf of residents of Langholme Drive, in relation to parking issues and access for emergency vehicles, presented by Cllr Simpson-Laing;
 - c) A petition on behalf of residents of Knapton, regarding closure of the village access road to the A1237, presented by Cllr Bradley.

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

6. In accordance with Standing Order 11, five notices of motion had been received:

(i) Recycling Services

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

“Council requests that the Director of Neighbourhood Services urgently ensures that terraced areas of the City receive a recycling service that is equitable with the rest of the City and that larger refuse bins are provided for families with younger children.”

On the advice of the Chief Executive, the Lord Mayor exercised her constitutional authority under Standing Order 11(ii) and referred the above motion directly to the Executive, without debate, for an Officer report on the full financial and other implications of the proposal.

(ii) Sports Facilities in York

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

“Council note with concern Active York’s research which shows that, following the closure of the Barbican Centre, York is now short of approximately twelve 25m lanes of pool space, has an under-supply of indoor sports hall space equal to approximately 24 badminton courts and by 2015 will be short of 64 mini soccer pitches, 17 junior soccer pitches and 19 junior rugby pitches. Council asks Officers to take immediate steps to identify ways to tackle this shortfall.”

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

“Delete the words *‘with concern’*.

Delete the words *‘the closure of the Barbican Centre’* and insert *‘the neglect of leisure facilities over many years,’*.

Delete the words *‘Council asks Officers to take immediate steps to identify ways to tackle this shortfall.’*

Add the following words at the end:

‘Council welcomes the comprehensive work Active York, supported by Council officers, have done, and continue to do, to encourage participation in sport and active leisure across the city. Council notes that Active York has identified these needs ahead of most other Councils in the Region and consequently Active York is recognised by Sport England as an exemplar for Community Sports Networks. Council also notes that MORI research places York in the top 20 of all Councils in England & Wales in terms of participation in Sport. Council therefore wishes to record its thanks for the work done by this voluntary group and urges them to continue making their valuable contribution to sport and active leisure in the City. Council also recognises that the sports facilities inherited by the current

administration in 2003 had all been neglected for many years, few of them being "fit for purpose" and welcomes the plans to work with partners such as the University to modernise existing, and provide new, facilities.'

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

"Council notes Active York's research which shows that, following the neglect of leisure facilities over many years, York is now short of approximately twelve 25m lanes of pool space, has an under-supply of indoor sports hall space equal to approximately 24 badminton courts and by 2015 will be short of 64 mini soccer pitches, 17 junior soccer pitches and 19 junior rugby pitches.

Council welcomes the comprehensive work Active York, supported by Council officers, have done, and continue to do, to encourage participation in sport and active leisure across the city. Council notes that Active York has identified these needs ahead of most other Councils in the Region and consequently Active York is recognised by Sport England as an exemplar for Community Sports Networks. Council also notes that MORI research places York in the top 20 of all Councils in England & Wales in terms of participation in Sport. Council therefore wishes to record its thanks for the work done by this voluntary group and urges them to continue making their valuable contribution to sport and active leisure in the City. Council also recognises that the sports facilities inherited by the current administration in 2003 had all been neglected for many years, few of them being "fit for purpose" and welcomes the plans to work with partners such as the University to modernise existing, and provide new, facilities."

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

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

(iii) Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities'

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

"Council believes that the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' is a missed opportunity. In particular, Council regrets that the White Paper:

- Does not introduce a fair voting system for local government;
- Does not propose the abolition of Council Tax and the introduction of a fair tax based on the ability to pay;
- Remains silent on returning Business Rates to local control,

essential if local democracy is to have the freedom of action to deliver for the community;

- Makes no proposals to return to local authorities those powers and budgets previously transferred to central government and quangos;
- Refers to expanded roles for local authorities to scrutinise, but indicates no resources for this;
- Removes the obligation for a referendum on any introduction of a directly-elected mayor, and instead seeks to ignore public opinion by allowing them to be introduced by resolution of Council.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State expressing its disappointment at the lack of devolution of powers, funding and responsibilities to local government.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(iv) Post Office Closures

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

“Council notes:

- That over the last two decades, post offices have been closing at a rate of over 300 per year;
- That 283 post offices have closed in Yorkshire and Humberside since 2001. Recent post office closures in the City of York area include Rufforth, Nether Poppleton, Elvington, Eastholme Drive, Holgate, Gale Lane, Boroughbridge Road, Fishergate, Clarence Street, Bishopthorpe Road and Albemarle Road;
- That, following the completion of the Urban Renewal Scheme, there is no longer a commitment to prevent avoidable closures of post offices in urban deprived areas where there is no alternative within half a mile;
- That Postcomm’s 2005 Annual Report states that nine out of ten rural post offices cannot be maintained on purely a commercial basis;
- That the Post Office withdrew the Pension and Benefit payment books and replaced them with the ‘Post Office Card Account and direct payment into banks’;
- That the Post Office Card Account, used by 4.5 million pensioners and benefit recipients nationally, will not be used for pension and benefit payments from 2010;
- That the £150 million subsidy for rural post offices is due to end in 2008 with no commitment yet to extend it.

Council calls for:

- The Government to take action to protect the post office network;

- The Government to reverse its decision to discontinue using the Post Office card account from 2010;
- The Government to announce immediately that it will continue the subsidy for rural post offices;
- The Chief Executive of City of York Council to send a copy of this motion to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

(v) Targets for CO2 Emissions

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

“Council regrets the government’s poor record in tackling CO2 emissions and its failure to take positive action on climate change.

Council calls upon the government to:

1. Make sufficient investment in energy conservation, public transport and renewable energy to meet the Kyoto targets;
2. Sign up to annual targets for CO2 emissions as a matter of urgency;
3. Make sufficient investment in national assets to defend against the consequences of climate change.”

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

“Remove the words *‘regrets the government’s poor record in tackling CO2 emissions and its failure to take positive action on climate change’* and replace them with:

‘notes the significant achievements of the Government on Climate Change in terms of negotiating the original Kyoto Treaty and work to progress the issue on the world stage, including the recent publication of the Stern report outlining the importance of tackling the issue and how the necessary changes could be economically delivered. It further notes the wide variety of internal measures such as the Climate Change levy, Renewables Obligation and Energy Efficiency Commitment delivered through its 2000 Climate Change programmes, the delivery of the first phase of the EU Emissions Trading scheme, the Government progressing congestion charging and workplace parking powers for Local Authorities, with the extremely successful implementation in London, all of which have contributed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Council welcomes the Government’s intentions to extend its actions through the 2006 Climate Change programme and new Climate Change Bill, through again taking the lead in arguing for meaningful tightening of the EU Emissions limits in phase 2, and for establishing the Transport Innovation Fund to encourage Local Authority tackling congestion.

However in the light of the increasing concerns about the need for

faster action to tackle the issue’.

On point 1, replace the word ‘*make*’ with ‘*establish a strategy to deliver*’, add the words ‘*walking, cycling and*’ before ‘*public transport*’, add the word ‘*current*’ before ‘*Kyoto targets*’, and add the words ‘*and preferably more in the light of the worsening scientific picture, including funding support to Councils to deliver local measures*” at the end.

On point 2, replace the word ‘*annual*’ with ‘*clear short, medium & long term*’, and replace ‘*CO2*’ with ‘*reducing Greenhouse gas*’.

On point 3, replace the words ‘*Make sufficient investment in national assets to defend against the*’ with ‘*Produce plans for making the necessary adjustments to deal with those*’, and add the words ‘*that are already unavoidable*’ at the end.

Add the following paragraph at the end:

‘Council also asks officers to prepare a Climate Change strategy for the Council identifying those measures that the Council should undertake itself and/or with its partners, including the Energy Advice Centre, local businesses and residents to reduce York’s contribution to climate change.’

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

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

7. A written report was received from the Leader on the work of the Executive, and he then formally moved, and Councillor Waller seconded, those minutes requiring confirmation from the Executive meeting held on 21 November 2006, namely:

- (i) Minute 117 – Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Licensing Policy;
- (ii) Minute 118 – Local Development Framework: Statement of Community Involvement.

Cllr Horton raised an issue in respect of paragraph 3 of Minute 117 and proposed that this be amended to make it clear that the Licensing Act 2003 Committee had not recommended the adoption of a ‘no casino’ policy.

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

RESOLVED: That the above minutes, and the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy and the Local Development Framework Statement of Community Involvement be approved, subject to the Executive agreeing to amend the second sentence of paragraph 3 of Minute 117 to read as follows:

“These included whether or not to adopt a ‘no casino’ policy for York, whether or not to adopt a statement on permits for unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres and/or permits for prize gaming, and whether or not to adopt more prescriptive definitions of ‘interested parties’ and location of premises.”

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

8. A written report was received from Councillor Orrell, the Executive Member for Leisure and Culture. Councillor Orrell then responded to a series of questions put by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. Prior notice had been given of four questions to the Executive Member under this item. These were taken in the order set out on the list circulated around the Council Chamber, until the 10 minute time limit had elapsed, as follows:

(i) From Cllr Nimmo:

“How is the Leisure and Culture portfolio contributing to the Council’s sustainability agenda?”

The Executive Member replied:

“It has been one of our aims across the Council to raise the profile of sustainability. I don’t think there is any doubt that we have achieved that objective and awareness of sustainability is at much higher level than it was 3 years ago.

A few examples illustrate some of the things that have happened with the Leisure & Culture portfolio.

Whilst awareness has been raised significantly much more needs to be done so a Display Poster has been put up at Edmund Wilson detailing the energy use of the building.

We have introduced on site green waste recycling at Glen Gardens and West Bank Park this year (Rowntree was in place 18 months ago).

We have also introduced a two skip system on some of allotments sites this year (Glen, Hempland, Low Moor and Green Lane) instead

of the traditional single landfill skip. We will be expanding scheme next year to include more sites and also going over to green only skips on a few sites.

The Arts Action Team has been using recycled and reclaimed material for children's arts projects (making paper, weaving + rugs with rags, recycled tiles for mosaic)

Working on an education resource pack to be used at the ecoDepot and in all local schools to be launched Spring 2007

Commissioned a story book on environmental sustainability jointly with Early Years team to go out to all early years settings in March 2007 provisionally called "The Three Little Pigs and the Straw Stick House."

98% of artists on Artists database for schools and community use are local artists from this region."

(ii) From Cllr Bartlett (put by Councillor Hyman in Councillor Bartlett's absence):

"Can the Executive Member give more details of the work with people with disabilities within the Leisure & Culture portfolio?"

The Executive Member replied:

"I appreciate that we are encouraged to be brief in our answers so what I say in this area only scratches the surface of the work that is being done with people with disabilities. I could indeed give the full 10 minutes and more to this area so the following are some examples of the work being done.

Some projects cross all areas of the portfolio & some cross a number of directorates across the council & some are the result of working with partners.

The allotment photo in my report was from Hempland Lane. The Hemplands Allotments Association was supported to create a disabled friendly plot with raised beds.

Pinetrees the replacement for Hebden Rise is proving a modern much appreciated replacement. It is a real corporate development with parks working with adult services to provide a joint café & our arts team working with Adult services, parks and the adults who use Pinetrees to achieve the sensory garden

When I first looked at disabled facilities cat Yearsley I was surprised at how inadequate they were. I am disappointed that it has taken longer than I would have liked to improve things but the hoist and changing provision now installed is a big improvement and much appreciated by the people who use it.

We are working with Oaklands to get the gym accredited as an IFI

(Inclusive Fitness Initiative) facility, which means that equipment will be suitable for disabled users and all staff will have had appropriate training.

At the RI, New Lane sports facilities disabled toilet and changing facilities to support the use of the new Tennis and netball facilities by disabled users have been provided. This project was identified as a high priority by the West Sports Zone and has proved to be highly popular with users.

The disabled access ramp to the rear of Edmund Wilson pool has been repaired which has made access easier for wheelchair users and parents with buggies.

We are supporting and encouraging community sports clubs to get accredited by their governing bodies. This process includes addressing access issues and disability training for club officials. We currently have 22 accredited clubs in the city and are working to get many more.

In relation to the Arts Action Team the activities include -

Greenworks pottery : adults with learning disability developing pottery skills and looking at the kind of art work they could produce that would have commercial resale value/ business opportunities.

As part of Dance Week we also did work with dance and drawing with children with severe physical disabilities

There is Intensive Curriculum support in Dance, Drama and Music for teachers and carers at Applefields.

There was an Arts Education Integrated performance project with pupils at Hob Moor Children's centre presented at Theatre Royal, Arts Education

Working with Amicus Music and NCEM to develop musical instruments for children with severe disabilities

Service level agreement with Accessible Arts, which support Sound Weaver workshops and Hands and Voices choir, for adults with learning difficulties or physical disabilities, and space at the Melbourne Centre.

Melbourne Centre Redevelopment.

I'm sure members will know of other examples & also know where further improvements can be made.

So a lot is being done but we are always looking to do more."

(iii) From Cllr Evans (put by Cllr Horton in Cllr Evans' absence):

“Will the Executive Member agree to take responsibility for the truthfulness and accuracy of the statements and claims he makes in his written report as well as of any answers to questions on it?”

The Executive Member replied:

“I decline to respond to the offensive implication behind this question.”

(iv) From Cllr Kirk:

“Could the Executive Member outline how his portfolio helps disadvantaged residents?”

The Executive Member replied:

“Members will be aware that it was recently agreed that the IT project to enable internet access to our Mobile Library. This will enable those people who have been excluded from this facility to access it.

Street sport was set up to work in areas of disadvantage including a weekly session at the travellers trust. As my Report indicated it has been a very successful project.

The promotion of Quick Read books to emergent readers through the Learning Festival in York enabled our service to reach reluctant readers, particularly teenage and young men with learning needs.

We ran a pilot project last year running creative writing sessions for looked after children in partnership with the Right to Read project.

Many arts projects are with disadvantaged people:

older people with dementia, SureStart families, people in prison, people who are homeless, people in residential homes, young people who have dropped out of mainstream education, children in care, people with renal failure, cancer, mental health issues, carers.

Particular highlights are;

the film made jointly with Arts Education, All Saints school and Network Two in order to engage with a group of pupils at risk of dropping out of education,

the art project with the homeless at the Central Methodist Church in partnership with Carecent and called "the A Team", York carers 'Written and Stitched' project and the ARClight art therapy project.

We've supported the Lesbian Arts festival, the biggest festival of its kind in Europe and one that saw the hotels in York full that weekend and

The whole of the team has worked with the Education Access team on a 'BEAT the Bullies project' covering song writing, film making, animation for mobile phones

An interesting has been undertaken at Askham Grange prison. Read Write York organised a creative writing project called 'Rapping and Rhythm'. The project aimed to work with prisoners and young offenders to create a piece of writing that could be recorded onto CD for a member of their family. The project enabled participants to develop their reading and writing skills and also to develop their confidence and self-esteem. An additional and integral aim of the project was to encourage greater use of the prison library.

The project was a success and further author events and workshops have taken place to maintain momentum. This project enabled the Library service to apply to the Paul Hamlyn foundation. They were successful in receiving an award of £22,500 to provide a part-time project officer to continue family reading and writing activities at HMP Askham Grange for the next 2 years."

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

9. In accordance with Standing Order 10(c)(1), the following questions were put and responses given:

(i) From Cllr Hill to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services:

"Can the Executive Member provide me with a figure for the number of bicycles crushed and disposed of as scrap metal or landfill in the City, in the period since the practice of allowing the public to recover materials from household waste sites was disallowed at the start of the Lib Dems' tenure as Council Executive?"

The Executive Member replied:

"Practices at the Household Waste recycling centres were refined by this administration in order to improve health and safety operations on sites, dramatically boost the proportion of waste being diverted from landfill, and to improve the assistance being offered to members of the public taking waste to the sites. As the question includes the instances where bicycles are disposed of outside the recycling and waste systems operated by the council I cannot give him a figure for the total number of bicycles crushed or disposed of as scrap metal or landfill in the city, but I can assure him that every effort is made to keep bicycles out of landfill when they come to our Household Waste Recycling Centres."

The Executive Member then responded to a supplementary question relating to the number of bicycles disposed of as scrap metal or landfill since 2003.

(ii) From Cllr Hill to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services:

“Can the Executive Member provide me with a figure for the number of bikes that have been salvaged and re-used, either by the Council or by bicycle re-use organizations such as ‘Re-Cycle’, during this period?”

The Executive Member replied:

“From the first two months when Bike-Rescue were operational with a full business plan, and premises, 150 bikes had been segregated from waste at Hazel Court as reported to City of York Council and Yorwaste on 31st October 2006. We are very keen to see this re-use system work, and are working closely with Bike-rescue.

The question also would include the instances where bicycles are disposed of outside the recycling and waste systems operated by the council. I cannot therefore give a figure for the total number of bicycles salvaged and reused by the public during this period, but I hope that the figure for the council recycling service will suffice.”

The Executive Member then responded to supplementary questions regarding the separation of waste and the viability of re-use credits.

(iii) From Cllr Potter to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services:

“Would the Executive Member confirm how many times cameras have been deployed to investigate early presentation of refuse bins / bags and fly tipping, and how much the Council has paid for cameras and whether any useful evidence has been gathered that could lead to a prosecution?”

The Executive Member replied:

“Neighbourhood Services officers have used a number of cameras to record evidence which they deploy on a daily basis. The council paid £5k towards the cost of a mobile recording CCTV camera, and the 6 digital cameras used by Street Environment Officers, who deal with enforcement cost £100 each. Yes, evidence has been gathered that could lead to a prosecution.”

The Executive Member then responded to supplementary questions regarding the number of occasions on which the CCTV camera had been used for court evidence and how often it had led to successful prosecutions.

(iv) From Cllr Greenwood to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services:

“Can the Executive Member comment on the current performance in removing graffiti and abandoned cars?”

The Executive Member replied:

“We are now removing obscene graffiti on council land within 24 hours, and non-obscene graffiti on council land within an average of four days. 100% of abandoned cars were investigated within 24 hours of being reported in Quarter 2 of this year, and 95% were removed within 24 hours of being legally entitled to do so.”

(v) From Cllr Simpson-Laing to the Executive Member for City Strategy:

“Will the Executive Member explain why there are continuing problems with reliability of the ‘ftr’ service and timing, given the concept was meant to overcome boarding delays, and can she confirm whether an additional bus has been added into the ‘ftr’ service schedules?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The Leader of the Council met with Directors from First Group and First York on 20th September. I understand that at that meeting First indicated that a number of vehicle reliability issues had been identified and that a programme of modifications were ongoing involving engineers from both Volvo and Wrights. It is expected that these modifications to all the vehicles will take 2 months to complete. One of the Leeds FTRs is in use in York to maintain fleet numbers.

In addition customer hosts have been recruited and their introduction is already having an effect on reducing boarding times and improving reliability.

An additional ftr has been in place for over 3 months now bringing the fleet number up to 11 in service. There is still a spare vehicle which is used when difficulties arise giving a total fleet of 12.”

The Executive Member then responded to supplementary questions in relation to bus running times and suggested modifications to the ftr ticket machines.

(vi) From Cllr Simpson-Laing to the Executive Member for City Strategy:

“Can the Executive Member confirm how many existing city streets have been adopted since 2003, and how many have been requested for adoption by residents?”

The Executive Member replied:

“Members will no doubt be aware that prior to 2003 there was no policy or budget funding to respond to the requests from residents who wished to have their roads adopted. We have therefore had to spend time in developing a policy and have only recently been in a position to write to residents seeking their views on a way forward.

Officers have written to residents in 12 roads outlining the policy and asking for expressions of interest. The replies are currently being evaluated as the closing date has not yet been reached.”

(vii) From Cllr Moore to the Executive Member for City Strategy:

“Would the Executive Member comment on the outcome of the tendering exercise for the current year highways maintenance contract?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The existing contract arrangements with Tarmac for the resurfacing and reconstruction of carriageways and footways had previously been extended up to 31 March 2006. It was not appropriate to continue this extension and it was suspected that perhaps better rates could be obtained by testing the market. This work was therefore procured during the first half of 2006/07. The procurement allows for a contract to be in place up to 2010, to coincide with the commencement of a highway maintenance PFI contract, should the Council be successful with its Expression of Interest.

The tender process attracted considerable interest and pricing was very competitive and Tarmac, the existing provider up to the start of this financial year, has been awarded the term contract on a fixed price basis for the first 2 years. The contract will be delivered by a quality contractor, with certainty of price and savings compared to previous scheme costs. Indeed, members will not doubt have already noted the carriageway works taking place across the City and information on all the projected works is now available on the website.

The significant savings achieved through the new contract come after the completion of the reserve schemes of Tranby Ave and Walmer Carr. Improved working arrangements between City Strategy and Neighbourhood Services has also achieved further savings on the conventional footway resurfacing programme. These savings will allow extra highway maintenance works to be carried out. Suggestions

include improvements to the well used Esplanade cycle/footway; repair and replacement of city centre signs; road marking programme and some extra resurfacing work and Members will be able to see the details in the City Strategy EMAP papers.”

(viii) From Cllr Evans (Cllr Horton in the absence of Cllr Evans) to the Executive Member for Leisure & Culture:

“Can the Executive Member explain what kind and level of community use is being made of the three PFI school facilities now that they have opened, as was intended under the original proposals?”

The Executive Member replied:

“This Question should, of course, have been directed to Cllr Runciman who has responsibility for PFI projects. Nevertheless the following represents the answer to the Question.

Overview

The PFI contract provides buildings and facilities management. Within the contract, there are clear requirements for facilities to be open at various times, fully serviced and working, to allow the LA to provide a range of services from them. The Council and schools also have access to additional hours within the contract - these are detailed below.

Below is a list of opening requirements for the main user groups at each of the 3 PFI sites.

Sewell Education has established effective and positive relationships with schools, the Local Authority and other partners during the first full year of the contract. The company is open to new ideas and suggestions for using buildings and has proved to be realistic, responsive and reasonable in dealings with the Council.

St Barnabas

St Barnabas School

Open 7.30am - 6.30pm, 195 days per year. 140 additional hours per annum are also available on request for the use of any school-related activity, for example, parents’ evenings, staff meetings, school play, etc.

100 additional hours outside of these hours are available for school related activities.

Nursery

Open 7.30am - 7.30pm, 52 weeks (ex. Bank Hols).

Holiday Club

During school holidays (ex. Bank Hols), 7.30am - 6.30pm.

Operating: After School Club (3.00pm - 6.00pm (this is part of

usual school day, is run by the school and is considered part of the school's usual running), as well as multiple clubs (allotment club, art club) these are normally 40 minutes to an hour after school.

St Oswald's

St Oswald's School

Open 7.30am - 6.30pm, 195 days per year. 140 additional hours per annum are also available on request for the use of any school-related activity, for example, parents' evenings, staff meetings, and a dance workshop run by a non-school group.

Under extended schools, the school is promoting its breakfast club (8.00-school start), the after school club (3.30pm - 6.30pm), as well as various other 'mini' after school clubs run by a teacher for approx. half an hour after school.

100 additional hours per annum outside of these hours are available for school related activities.

Nursery

Open 7.30am - 7.30pm, 52 weeks (ex. Bank Hols).

Library

Contractually 9.5 hours a week, 52 weeks (Ex. Bank Hols).

100 additional hours per annum, though the Library Service has since bought extra hours for opening on Saturdays, by a separate agreement.

Hob Moor Childrens Centre

Hob Moor Primary School

Open 7.30am - 6.30pm, 195 days per year. 140 additional hours per annum are also available on request for the use of any school-related activity, for example, parents' evenings, staff meetings, school-led workshops etc.

Hob Moor Oaks

Open 7.30am - 6.30pm, 195 days per year. 140 additional hours per annum are also available on request for the use of any school-related activity, for example, parents' evenings, staff meetings, school-led workshops etc.

Nursery

Open 7.30am - 7.30pm, 52 weeks (Ex. Bank Hols). 100 additional hours per annum, for nursery-led events, such as parents' evening etc.

SureStart

Open 8.00am - 6.00pm, 52 weeks (Ex. Bank Hols). 100 additional hours per annum.

Family Centre

Open 8.00am - 6.00pm, 52 weeks (Ex. Bank Hols). 100 additional hours per annum.

Holiday Club

During school holidays (ex. Bank Hols), 7.30am - 6.30pm.

Informal Games Area

This will be available for general outdoor play.

General

The Council also has up to 50 hours per annum available outside the core hours (over and above the additional hours available for school related or school sponsored activity) at each of the 3 sites."

In relation to supplementary questions on activities specifically in the community and timings of activities, the Executive Member replied that the question would need to be put to the appropriate Executive Member.

(ix) From Cllr Fraser to the Executive Member for Adult Social Services:

"Will the Executive Member detail how many 'Home Care' packages are being offered this financial year compared with last?"

The Executive Member replied:

"There is no requirement on the Council to collate the information requested therefore it is not available."

(x) From Cllr Livesley to the Executive Member for Adult Social Services:

"When does the Executive Member anticipate that Windsor House will be open?"

The Executive Member replied:

"Recruitment is currently underway and it is expected that the second facility of its kind will be open once registration from CSCI is received which should be within the next few weeks. Once I have an exact date Members will be informed."

(xi) From Cllr Looker to the Executive Member for Corporate Services:

Would the Executive Member explain when the need to alter the Barbican 106 agreement was identified, who was involved in making that decision and why there was a substantial delay in submitting the formal proposal to Planning?"

The Executive Member replied:

"Members will recall that consent for the original Barbican scheme was granted on 22nd April 2004. The joint applicants were City Of York Council and Barbican Venture. The consent required Barbican Venture to enter into a S106 agreement which included the construction of a new swimming pool on the site of Kent Street coach park. The S106 agreement was drafted but not signed because of the uncertainty introduced by the Save Our Barbican campaign."

There then followed 2 years of protracted delay, while Save Our Barbican legally challenged the scheme. This in turn has led directly to a reduction in the achievable capital receipt of £2,168,000 and the loss of the swimming pool at Kent Street. This is equivalent to £ 11.85 for every man, woman and child resident in the City of York.

On 7th February 2006, the Executive adopted a new Leisure Facilities Strategy. The new strategy withdrew the provision of the pool on the Kent Street site and authorised the pursuit of a partnership approach with the University to provide an 8 lane, 25metre county standard pool.

In mid May 2006 planning officers revisited the existing planning consent and the draft S106 agreement. They realised that there might be a problem with the planning consent since it no longer matched the proposed scheme.

Discussion between planning and property officers ensued and an opinion was sought from Counsel. In early August 2006, it was decided that the only correct course of action would be to seek a revised planning consent for the current scheme and this was granted on 28th September 2006.

Although deciding on the correct course of action took some time I consider that it was more important to get the right decision rather than a hasty one. I do not accept that this approach amounted to substantial delay and it has had no impact on the progress of the land sale."

The Executive Member then responded to a supplementary question regarding the handling of the issues involved between February and May 2004.

(xii) From Cllr Moore to the Executive Member for Corporate Services:

"Could the Executive Member confirm how current Council Tax collection rates compare with previous years?"

The Executive Member replied:

"In-year collection of Council Tax has improved every year since the disastrous fall of 4% at end of the year 2003/04. That fall was the direct result of the very difficult commissioning of the SX3 system 1 year late. That was entirely due to the last Labour administration's total failure to provide effective project management. At October 31st 2006, compared to the same date in 2005, the collection rate was 1.1% up at 65.8% and the year end forecast for 2006/07 is 1% up compared with last year; a forecast out-turn of 97.1%. I expect to see some further improvement to the in-year collection over the following years."

(xiii) From Cllr Hyman to the Executive Member for Housing

Services:

“Can the Executive Member confirm how many tenants have benefited from Choice Based Lettings?”

The Executive Member replied:

“The Choice based letting scheme was introduced as part of the new allocations policy that went live at the beginning of May 2006. The initiative means that certain properties where there is a limited demand are taken out of the normal allocations process which is based purely on housing need. These properties are advertised in the press, internet, council offices and copies are circulated to various partner agencies. Customers who are on the councils housing register are invited to put in a bid for the property and the officers will then evaluate the bid on the basis of need and offer the property.

Since its launch there have been 35 homes let this way and it has attracted a lot of interest from customers and we have seen more people sign up for registration which suggests it is popular with the public. It does mean that some people who would normally be a low priority in terms of rehousing have a realistic chance of getting a council home. When properties are available they are advertised on the Tuesday and the evaluation is done a week later. Customers must be registered on the housing register to be eligible for the scheme. The scheme means that a council home is a realistic option for more of the public.”

In response to a supplementary question regarding the proportion of homes let during that period represented by the 35 referred to, the Executive Member informed Council that she would provide a written response in accordance with constitutional requirements.

(xiv) From Cllr Aspden to the Executive Member for Social Inclusion & Youth (in his absence, to Councillor Orrell):

“Will the Executive Member confirm the uptake of School’s Out over the past few years?”

The Executive Member replied on behalf of the Executive Member for Social Inclusion & Youth (in his absence) :

“The total number of participants in the School’s Out holiday activities are as follows: for 2003, 23690; for 2004, 35273; for 2005, 43547; for 2006, 52777. It is worth noting that the 2006 figure does not include a final total for the October half term programme, nor, for obvious reasons, the Christmas holiday activities. Overall thanks to additional investment made by the Lib Dem administration and the determination, hard work and commitment of Council officers, even before the final totals for October 2006 and Christmas 2006 have been included, the total number of participants has grown by nearly 30,000 a year since 2003.”

(xv) From Cllr Bradley to the Executive Member for Children's Services:

"Would the Executive Member inform Council of the result of the Annual Performance Assessment and highlight some of the comments it contains?"

"I am pleased to report that the result of the 2006 Annual Performance Assessment by Ofsted and CSCI of Services for Children and Young People was very positive. The APA letter said that overall the City of York delivers outstanding outcomes for children and young people.

For our contribution to maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people we were awarded a Grade 4, which means that we have a service that delivers well above minimum requirements and is regarded as excellent. Our grade for children's social care was 3, which is good. For our capacity to improve the services we provide we also received a grade 4. The report commented that we demonstrated the experience and determination to succeed and has excellent capacity to improve further within the resources that are available. That means in terms of star rating we are a three star authority – the highest possible category.

Comments made by the inspectors highlighted the successful integration of the new directorate and the high quality of leadership and management that has enabled all areas to improve. They recognised our tight financial constraints but stated that we give excellent value for money. With a clear plan and good partnerships, they report that limited resources are targeted effectively and reinvested wisely. They noted that standards in schools continue to rise and remain above average and that we make a good contribution to assuring the safety and welfare of children as well as their health."

It was pleasing to note that the inspectors found that we make excellent provision for encouraging children and young people to have real say in the decisions that affect their lives, with strength in targeting consultations with groups of young people.

I would like to pay tribute to all the officers in the directorate and the staff in schools who have enabled this excellent result to be achieved. Despite the continuing challenging budget pressures that the council has, which were noted several times by the inspectors in their report, it is an outstanding result for an excellent service."

In response to a supplementary question regarding the Council's national ranking position, the Executive Member

replied that City of York Council was within the top 10% in the country.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE

10. Councillor Nimmo moved, and Councillor Moore seconded, those minutes requiring confirmation from the following meeting:

Licensing Act 2003 Committee on 3 November 2006, Minute 12 (Gambling Policy) – recommendations (ii) and (iii) in relation to the method of publication of the Gambling Act policy and the summary of delegations set out in the policy document.

RESOLVED: That minute 12 of the above meeting and recommendations (ii) and (iii) of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee in respect of the Gambling Policy be approved.

SCRUTINY - REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF SMC

11. A written report was received from Councillor Kirk, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC), on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council, on 5 October 2006, which included setting up 2 new scrutiny reviews (use of council owned land in Tang Hall and highways maintenance procurement), updating the ongoing work of established scrutiny committees and bringing to completion reviews outstanding from 2005/6.

ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

12. Minutes of the following meetings of Outside Bodies were considered:

Regional Transport Board

Draft minutes of meeting on 22 September

Yorkshire & Humber Assembly

Summary notes of meeting on 16 November

North Yorkshire Police Authority

Minutes of meeting on 31 July

Safer York Partnership Board

Minutes of meeting on 11 October

Pension Fund Committee

Minutes of meeting on 22 September

In accordance with a previous request at Council, these minutes had been made available to Members to view on the Council's computer system. The Lord Mayor invited comments and questions, firstly, from Council representatives on those bodies either in relation to the body generally or specifically on the

minutes, and then, secondly, from Members generally.

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

13. Cllr Waller proposed the following addition to the list of appointments and changes circulated around the Council:

Local Development Framework Working Group

Cllr Morley to replace Cllr Steve Galloway as 1st Liberal Democrat substitute

RESOLVED: That the appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and Working Groups set out in the list circulated around the Council Chamber, and the above addition as proposed by Cllr Waller, be approved (in accordance with the list attached as Annex A to these minutes).

Councillor Janet Hopton
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.35 pm and concluded at 9.55 pm]

Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

COMMITTEES

Health Scrutiny Committee

3rd Liberal Democrat substitute TBC

Social Inclusion Working Group

To appoint the following Community Group representatives as non-voting Co-Opted Members of the Social Inclusion Working Group:

Older People: Jack Archer
 Sue Lister

Sexual Orientation: Karen Roberts / Ely Treanor (will attend alternate meetings)

Ethnicity: Rita Sanderson
 Daryoush Mazloum

PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER BODIES

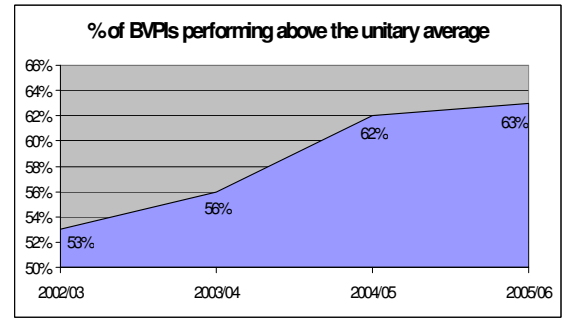
OUTSIDE BODIES

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1 There have been 3 Executive meetings since the Council last met.

2 **Second Performance and Financial Monitor - 2006/07**

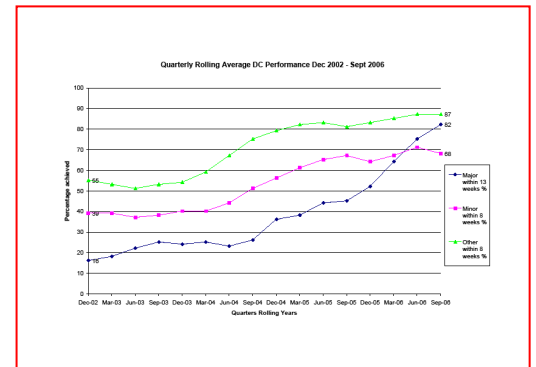
3 The Executive has monitored progress with this year's
4 revenue budget. We were delighted to learn of the progress
5 that is being made with most major targets being achieved
6 across the whole council. Examples include:



7 **Council housing relet times:** the average time taken
8 to re-let council houses has improved significantly
9 in the first 7 months of 2006/07 (current
10 performance is 24.7 days compared to the 32.27
11 days for 2005/06). This is now top quartile performance and will make a positive contribution
12 to our CPA.

13 **The % of new homes built on previously developed land** is running at 94%, exceeding the
14 65% target set for this year. This is now just below the audit Commission's top quartile
15 threshold of 95%.

16 **Planning applications:** the speed of determining
17 planning applications continues to improve and with
18 the number of major planning applications
19 determined within 13 weeks currently running at
20 88.5%. This is now well in excess of government
21 standards targets and puts us in the top quartile.
22 Planning Services have predicted an 80% outturn by
23 the end of the year, exceeding the 60% target set for
24 2006/07.



25 **Roads & pavements:** the % of people satisfied with
26 the condition of roads and pavements in York has increased to 51%. This is very encouraging
27 when compared to the 43% achieved in 2002/03.

28 **Recycling:** waste recycling levels have continued to increase
29 significantly in the first half of the year, with an extra 1,300
30 household receiving kerbside collections. The % of household waste
31 recycled currently stands at just over 23% - a substantial increase on
32 the 16.5% achieved in 2005/06. This represents a large increase in
33 the tonnage of waste recycled with nearly 24,000 tonnes predicted to
34 be recycled by the end of the year compared to 16,000 tonnes the
35 year before.



36 **Landfill:** as a result, the amount of waste landfilled is expected decrease even further with
37 around 62,000 tonnes predicted for 2006/07, compared to the 74,000 which was landfilled last
38 year. These improvements are being achieved despite continuing increases in the amount of
39 household waste that is collected in York

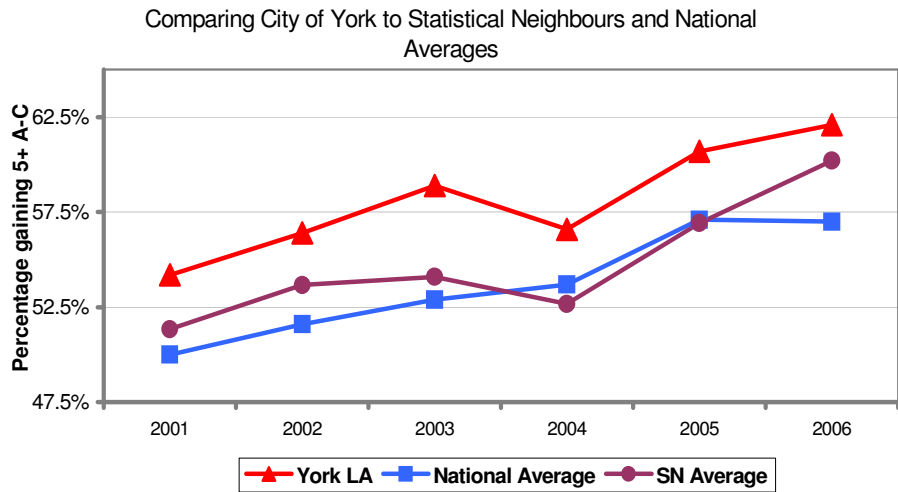
40 **Council Tax & Housing Benefit** claims: the speed of processing housing and Council Tax
41 benefit claims continues to improve. The average is currently running at 35 days compared to
42 last year's outturn of 40 days, a significant shift from the 2003/04 outturn of nearly 86 days.
43 This is a CPA indicator and this improved performance will move us up to second quartile if
44 the predicted outturn of 34 days is achieved.

45 **Council Tax:** the % of current year Council Tax collected during the period April to October
46 is 65.8%. This is higher than usual for this stage in the year and we expect to improve by
47 nearly 1% on last year's figure of 96.1%. Not only is this a significant improvement for this

48 indicator, but it also brings in much needed financial resource for the current year budget.
 49 Similarly, the % of current year NNDR collected is also forecast to improve by over 1%. In
 50 addition for both of these there is also an improvement on the recovery of prior year arrears.

51 Educational attainment for Key Stage 2 continues to show improvement – some significant.

52 The % of pupils achieving
 53 Level 5 in English has
 54 risen to 37%, a 9%
 55 increase on the 28%
 56 achieved in 2005/06.
 57 Another curriculum area
 58 that has achieved notable
 59 success is the % of pupils
 60 achieving level 5 in Key
 61 Stage 3 Science. This has
 62 risen by 2% (now 78%
 63 compared to 76% in
 64 2005/06). This result in
 65 particular should be
 66 celebrated as York is
 67 already a high top quartile
 68 performer and any
 69 incremental improvement over the existing performance levels represents a significant
 70 achievement.



71 Building access: the number of council buildings open to the public with access for disabled
 72 people is expected to rise to 84% by the end of the year (compared to
 73 72% in 2005/06). This is an excellent achievement given the difficulty
 74 of adapting most of York’s council buildings.

75 Litter: the first ‘provisional’ survey results for BVPI 199a (% of land
 76 and highways with combined deposits of litter and detritus) are now
 77 available and show a 1.5% improvement on last year’s outturn of 22%
 78 (currently running at 20.5%).



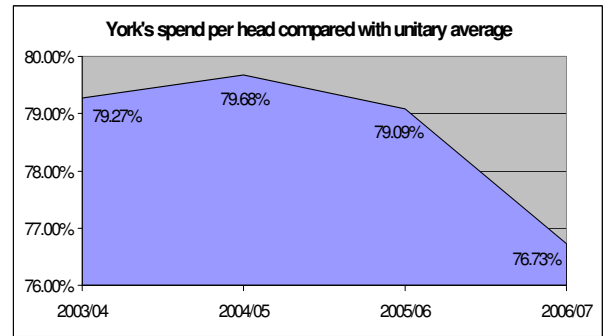
79 Graffiti: the provisional result for BVPI 199b (the % of land and
 80 highways where unacceptable levels of graffiti are visible) also shows
 81 significant improvement (5.5% compared to 7.8% last year). However,
 82 similarly this only achieves 3rd quartile performance when compared against Audit
 83 Commission data. The average response time for removing obscene graffiti is still well under
 84 2 days (currently 1.27 days compared to 1.98 days achieved last year). Similarly, non obscene
 85 graffiti removal is also well under the 4-days standard (currently 2.49 days compared to 4.94
 86 days achieved last year).

87 Safe City: The latest Talkabout survey figures show a continued increase in the number of
 88 people feeling York is a safe place to live (55% - a rise of 6% since 2004). Over the past 4
 89 years all the crime and safety perception survey results have shown significant improvement,
 90 which contrasts with rising levels of crime across the rest of the country. This may be due to
 91 the fact that crime in York continues to reduce in some of the most important category areas
 92 (see table 1 in Annex 2). It is evident from the year to date figures that excellent reductions
 93 have been achieved across all crimes with the exception of theft from a vehicle. Violent crime
 94 has been an area of concern for some time, but this has now seen substantial reductions.

95 The Council will, however, be concerned about the escalating costs of Equal Pay. (para 63). This has
 96 resulted from a poorly worded piece of legislation by central government who set off on the worthy

97 objective of trying to ensure equal pay for equal work but blundered into provoking an “equal pay for
 98 similar work” type confrontation which is incomprehensible to most people (including many who are
 99 wrapped up in the controversy). The additional funding will come from the allocation for job evaluation.
 100 There must be some concern that the costs of both of
 101 these exercises taken together will be beyond the means
 102 of the Council to fund - or at any event not without job
 103 losses..

104 The budget is predicted to outturn at the target level at
 105 the end of the financial year. This has allowed us to
 106 make provision for the continuation of both the Ward
 107 Committee and York Pride supplementary allocations
 108 into the 2007/08 financial year.



109 On the capital investment side, the Council has made good progress in implementing its most ambitious
 110 programme ever. Some of the major successes include:

111 a) The completion and opening of the £2.3m Clifton Green
 112 Integrated Children’s Centre which provides family social
 113 services, health services, Sure Start services and childcare
 114 facilities on the site of Clifton Green Primary School,

115 b) The completion and opening of the £3m James Street
 116 Link Road to ease traffic levels on Foss Islands Road in
 117 anticipation of the development of the former depot site,

118 c) The sound progress being made on the upgrade and
 119 extension of Huntington Secondary School, involving the
 120 refurbishment of 12 classrooms and provision of Youth
 121 and Performing Arts facilities for pupils and the local community,

122 d) Additional capital investment of £300k in IT equipment to be funded from prudential borrowing.

123 e) Approval of a new £5.4m 25 metre swimming pool integrated with Oakland’s sport centre (York
 124 High school campus).



125 **Sports facilities in the City**

126 The Executive has agreed to go ahead with the construction of a new swimming pool as part of the work
 127 on establishing a sports centre on the new York High School campus

128 The advantages of the York High school option include:

- 129 New build that will deliver modern facilities.
- 130 More sustainable environmentally.
- 131 Combined sports facility – dance, climbing wall, all weather pitches, community rooms, sports
 132 hall, bar & café.
- 133 No closure of Edmund Wilson pool during the 12 month construction period
- 134 Potential for keeping open Edmund Wilson whilst Yearsley is modernised.

135 Public consultation was carried out up to Dec 5th. It included 2 public meetings; a meeting with the York
 136 City Baths Club; a leaflet delivered to around 30,000 residents in the 5 Wards in the west of the city &
 137 through the Council’s website.

138 An overall majority of respondents favoured providing a new pool – and associated leisure and fitness
 139 facilities - at the High school site. The response rate was relatively high for this type of consultation
 140 with – contrary to some commentators claims – the highest levels of return coming from the Holgate,
 141 Rural West and Dringhouses Wards (rather than Westfield in which the both the existing, and proposed,
 142 pools are located).

143 The Council can now move on to consider its options for improving facilities on the east of the City. As
144 well as refurbishing the Yearsley pool agreement in principle has been reached with the University on
145 the provision of a new public access competition standard swimming pool and sports facilities on the
146 campus. The initial investment is expected to be in the order of £10 million of which about 20% would
147 be provided by CYC. A working group comprising community and sporting interest groups is being
148 established to move this project forward.

149 **Pressures on Social Care**

150 In early December the Executive considered in some detail the implications of the growth in demand for
151 Social Care services and the governments proposed reductions in Supporting People (SP) grant

152 Following the establishment of the Supporting People programme in 2003 by the ODPM, there have
153 been two cuts in funding and consultation nationally on both funding and policy. The programme is
154 aimed at enabling vulnerable people to live independently in the community and is aimed at people
155 receiving both care and support for whom housing related support underpins these needs, people who
156 live independently with only minimum support and people at risk of social exclusion.

157 The SP grant for York in 2007/8 will see a 2% reduction. Because providers of services will be
158 expecting an increase in fees of 2.3% to accord with inflation, York will have a cut of 4.3% in funding
159 for SP schemes.

160 This has to be set against a backdrop of revised government guidelines as to what SP money can be used
161 for and an Audit Commission inspection of York's SP funded services which commented critically that
162 we should not be using the money for care related services. All SP funded services have been reviewed
163 in York against the revised eligibility criteria for these services and regrettably those services for people
164 with learning disabilities have been found to have £2.3m spending on services which are ineligible- in
165 the view of central government - for grant. About £1.1 million relates to the responsibilities of the
166 Council and the rest is down to the PCT. Whilst there is some ineligible expenditure in mental health
167 (£100k) and £625k on physical disabilities, the learning disabilities budget is most under pressure.

168 In March 2005 there were 228 people with a learning disability in York; this had risen to 257 in 2004,
169 326 in March 2006 and as at the end of October we currently care for 417. Much of this increase can be
170 put down to the closure of long stay hospitals.

171 The Commissioning Body which oversees the grant has agreed that there should be a phased withdrawal
172 of these funds otherwise care might break down. This will be done over the next 3 years. The money
173 released is to be invested in new qualifying schemes addressing unmet needs in other areas such as
174 people with drug problems, mentally disordered offenders and people with chaotic lifestyles.

175 There have been 23 new complex cases in Adult Services so far this year. People are living longer,
176 children born with life threatening problems are living longer, medical advances mean that those
177 suffering a serious injury are able to survive and more people with learning disabilities are living into
178 old age. All these issues have put pressure on our services. In this respect we are not alone and the issue
179 is very much on the agenda nationally.

180 **Pensions**

181 The Executive has also considered the implications for the Council of changes to the Local Government
182 Pension Scheme (LGPS) were introduced by the government in 2006, effective from 01-04-06. The
183 most controversial change was the removal of the 85 year rule, although staff who are already in the
184 scheme are protected until 31-03-08.

185 **2007/08 Budget**

186 Issues relating to the revenue and capital budget have been discussed and proposals agreed which will
187 be considered at the special Council meeting on 21st February.

MEETING	Executive
DATE	19 December 2006
PRESENT	Councillors Steve Galloway (Chair), Sue Galloway, Jamieson-Ball, Macdonald, Reid, Runciman and Sunderland
APOLOGIES	Councillors Orrell and Waller

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

125. Local Government Pension Scheme (LPGS) - Scheme Changes and Local Discretions

Members considered a report which reviewed the Council's current arrangements for early retirement and redundancy, in the light of changes to the LGPS and the introduction of age discrimination legislation, and proposed amendments to these policies as a result. The Executive were asked to consider whether to recommend the proposals to full Council for approval.

Details of the Council's current policies were set out in paragraphs 5-11 of the report. Changes to the LGPS arising from government legislation effective from 1 April 2006 were discussed in paragraph 12, while further changes proposed from 1 April 2008 and contained in draft legislation were outlined in paragraphs 13-15. The report then set out Officers' recommendations for changes to Council policy. These included the following, in respect of which alternative options were presented but not recommended:

1. Replacement Policy for Redundancy Pay:

Option A – award all employees an additional number of weeks redundancy pay (subject to the 30 week maximum). Not recommended, due to the strain it would put upon the early retirement and redundancy budget.

Option B – calculate redundancy pay using the statutory tables, with a 30 week maximum. Recommended.

2. Early Retirement under the "85 year" rule:

Option A – allow all employees the option to elect to retire early and receive actuarially reduced pension benefits. Not recommended due to costs and potential disruption to service areas / increased staff turnover.

Option B – adopt a range of formal criteria under which to consider requests for early retirement. Not recommended, due to problems in achieving objectivity and risk of challenge and subsequent costs when requests refused.

Option C – remove the option to retire at age 58 (now deemed discriminatory) and align the early retirement policy with the provisions of

the NYPF and the TPS, enabling members of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund (NYPF) to elect to retire from age 60. Recommended.

3. Transitional Arrangements (should Option C under 2. above be approved):

Option A – remove the current policy with effect from 1 March 2007.

Option B – allow early retirements up to 31 August 2007.

Option C(i) – allow all employees aged 57 at 31 August 2006 to elect to retire early if they reach the 85 year rule by 31 August 2009.

Option C(ii) – allow all employees aged 57 at 31 August 2006 to elect to retire early if they reach the 85 year rule by 31 August 2008.

Option C(iii) - allow all employees aged 57 at 31 December 2006 to elect to retire early if they reach the 85 year rule by 31 August 2009. Recommended, as the fairest option both for those employees who currently qualified to leave and for those approaching qualification.

Further recommendations, on the policy to be adopted in respect of ill-health retirements, flexible retirement and added years / augmentation, were set out in paragraphs 26 to 33 of the report.

Officers provided an update on the position of UNISON, who had not yet formally responded but had suggested that there should be a longer transition period for removal of the 85 year rule. They had been advised that this might be more likely to breach age discrimination legislation. In response to the comments of the Shadow Executive on this item, Officers confirmed that the Council would continue to provide support and advice to staff facing redundancy and that Corporate Management Team was fully in favour of a flexible retirement policy but would require further advice from Government or other council schemes before this could be taken any further.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That a revised policy for redundancy payments be introduced, based on the award of up to 30 weeks of actual pay, calculated using the Statutory Redundancy tables (Option B under heading 1. above)..

REASON: The current policy of awarding 5 additional weeks of compensation to those aged 40-49 falls foul of age discrimination legislation.

(ii) That the new policy for redundancy payments become effective from 1 April 2007 and that any enhanced quotes given under the current policy be honoured for redundancies falling after 1 April 2007.

REASON: The current policy of awarding 5 additional weeks of compensation to those aged 40-49 falls foul of age discrimination legislation.

(iii) That approval be given to:
a) Remove the current policy allowing any employee aged 58 or more to retire

before age 60 when their age and service total 85 or more, thus realigning employees' early retirement options with the provisions of their Schemes (age 60 for members of the LGPS and age 55 for members of the TPS) (Option C under heading 2. above).

- b) Adopt transitional arrangements which will allow all those employees who are aged 57 by 31 December 2006 and would have met the "85 year rule" by 31 August 2009 to retire early on unreduced pension benefits in the period up to 31 August 2009 (Option C(iii) under heading 3 above).
- c) Allow exceptions to this policy to be considered by an Appeals Board consisting of the Pensions Officer, Head of Human Resources, Director of Resources and relevant directorate representative (or suitable delegates).

REASON:

To provide suitable arrangements in place of the 85 year rule, which has been deemed to be age discriminatory and has been removed from the LGPS.

(iv) That a formal policy be introduced for processing ill-health retirement requests from deferred members (i.e. ex-employees), limiting the number of occupational health referrals paid for by the Council.

REASON:

The Council currently has no formal policy in this area.

(v) That flexible retirement, offered under the terms of the LGPS, be refused in the short term, whilst further research and analysis is undertaken as part of the review of work-life balance to be undertaken by Corporate Human Resources. The Council would reserve its discretion to act outside this policy, with exceptions being considered by the Appeals Board.

REASON:

Under the terms of the LGPS, the Council is obliged to have a policy under which it can exercise its discretion in this area, even if its discretion will be used to not adopt a policy. Flexible retirement is a complex area and considerable work will need to be undertaken before further proposals can be put before Council.

(vi) That the Council will not normally give a compensatory award of up to 104 weeks' pay on retirement and that exceptions must be considered by the Appeals Board, with any costs arising from an exception to be borne by the sponsoring department.

REASON: The award of compensatory added years has been replaced by the discretion to award up to 104 weeks of pay.

(vii) That authority be delegated to the Director of Resources, in consultation with Corporate Human Resources and the Pensions Officer, to approve the written statement of local discretions which must be lodged with the North Yorkshire Pension Fund.

REASON: The Council is required to have a written statement of how it will exercise certain discretions under the rules of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

S F Galloway, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.25 pm].

1. Windsor House

The new unit catering for dementia sufferers opened on 8 January. No resident will be asked to move out but over time the whole of Windsor House, like Morrell House, will specialise in residential accommodation for dementia sufferers. This is a growing area of concern as it is forecast that by 2020 there will be 700 more people in York suffering from this condition.

2. The Long Term Commissioning Strategy for Older People.

This is probably one of the most important documents to be discussed by the Council. It projects a 60% increase in the number of people aged over 85 by 2020. This will have major implications for the city and the work done so far puts York nationally in the forefront of planning for future needs. This is very much work in progress and the aim will be to glean further information to validate some of the assumptions made. I am pleased that the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust have agreed to work with us on this project along with York Hospital and I would hope that the voluntary sector and the independent sector will also be involved.

Mental Health Services

The partnership agreement with the PCT has been signed and mirrors that we have in place with the PCT for Learning Disabilities services. A government inspection of mental health services in York in 2006 officially judged them to be good.

3. Learning Disabilities Service

- The inspection last year resulted in a 2 star rating with promising prospects for improvement which is commendable for a service which has been only fully operational for a year.
- It is regrettable that North Yorkshire County Council have pulled out of the agreement for services in Easingwold and Selby to be provided by ourselves.
- Pinetrees – one of the replacement services for those with severe learning and physical disability – opened in West Bank Park and has been well received not only by the users and their carers but it has also integrated well into the community. This facility has an added dimension in that there is a café attached – Break in the Park – which can be used by members of the public but is also used to teach catering skills to those with learning difficulties.
- The number of people with a learning disability in work has increased – 21 people are in paid work and 34 are doing some kind of voluntary work.

4. Homecare

- Implementation of the reorganised services started in December last year. This reorganisation was needed to help meet future needs, to stabilise the independent providers of care by offering longer term contracts and to provide better value for money. Given the scale and complexity of the project, there were one or two handover issues in the first week but the new services have settled in well. The staff concerned have risen admirably to the challenges and they are to be congratulated.
- Admissions on a permanent basis to residential and nursing care remain low and well below national average.
- Delivery times for equipment remain high with over 91% provided within 7 days.

5. Direct payments

6. The number of people using direct payments continues to increase – from 35 to 52. Work is also on going to begin a more radical approach to individualised budgets starting with 10 adults with disabilities which will give them control of the money spent on their care. This will increasingly be the model for services in the future.

- 45 7. Following the restructure of the department I believe that we now have a strong, forward looking and
46 cohesive team in Housing and Adult Social Services which is ready to take on the challenges of
47 reshaping our services and making them some of the best in the country.

48
49 **Cllr Susan Galloway**

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51
52

Scrutiny Report to Full Council – 25 January 2007

Scrutiny Management Committee

Since my last report to Full Council on 30 November the Scrutiny Management Committee met on 18 December 2006 to consider:

- An update on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Floods Scrutiny Ad-hoc Panel;
- A report on the White Paper on Strong & Prosperous Communities summarising the early and potential implications for the scrutiny function and;
- a report setting out current budget expenditure. Given current budgetary restraints and anticipated expenditure against the budget by current financial year end, SMC is recommending the Council retain a scrutiny support budget of £6,000 for 2007/8.

At the time of producing this report, a further meeting of SMC was scheduled for 22 January 2007 to consider:

- a presentation from officers in regard to a possible review on 'Traffic Congestion' and;
- A second report on the White paper specifically aimed at how Scrutiny in York might provide this enhanced scrutiny function, and how it will be managed and it's resource implications

Scrutiny Calling-In Function

SMC has also been required to meet once in its new constitutional calling-in capacity. This meeting on 8 January 2007 was held to consider a call-in item on York West Swimming Facilities. SMC agreed that there was no basis for reconsideration and confirmed the decision of the Executive.

Scrutiny Committees

- The Education Scrutiny Committee have agreed their workplan for the remaining meetings of 2006/07. All of which have been allocated for the completion of the review of home-to-school transport contracts, and how pupil safety can be maximised for primary schools.
- The Health Scrutiny Committee recently accepted a proposed financial recovery plan prepared by the new North Yorkshire and York PCT. This was subject to the PCT undertaking to provide adequate consultation arrangements with York NHS Hospital Trust and City of York Council, and a consultation process that included the general public and voluntary organisations.

In regard to dental provision in York, the Committee maintains a watching brief on the issue and expects an update on the position of the database and waiting list, during the next three months. They've also received an update report on the guidelines to GPs on referral criteria and service thresholds.

Ad-hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committees

There are presently two ad-hoc scrutiny sub-committees set up to scrutinise:

- Use of Council-Owned Land in Tang Hall Area
Work is ongoing with this review - The committee is presently organising a consultation meeting for all community groups in the area to consult on the future use of council owned facilities Tang Hall (Tuesday 13 February 2007 at Tang Hall Community Centre, Fifth Avenue between 10am – 12pm).
- Highways Maintenance Procurement Review
Work is ongoing on part A of the remit for this review. This involves considering the potential efficiencies from a PFI arrangement and investigating the cost effectiveness of other identified alternative options, available to the council, should the PFI outcome prove unsuccessful.

Since my last report to Council Scrutiny Services have seen the departure of Ruth Sherratt who has gone on to Kirklees Council to take up the role of Environment Officer. I'm sure members would like to join with me in thanking Ruth for all her work in Scrutiny and wishing her all the best for the future.

As a result of Ruth's departure the Scrutiny team has been supplemented by a seconded Democracy Officer for a three month period up to the end of March 2007, to ensure the continuity of the ongoing reviews.

SMC continues to look at enhancing its work programming processes. For example, work is presently ongoing to enable Members to register scrutiny topics for review on-line via the new Committee Management System. This together with the new working practices recently introduced, will help the scrutiny process and provide the mechanism for responding to the proposals set out in the White Paper.

Councillor M Kirk,
Chair, Scrutiny Management Committee.

Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

COMMITTEES

Planning Committee

Cllr Orrell to replace Cllr Holvey as 4th Liberal Democrat substitute

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