

**Notice of meeting of
Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

To: Councillors Reid (Chair), Cunningham-Cross (Vice-Chair), Brooks, Fitzpatrick, Jeffries, Levene, Taylor and Watson

Date: Wednesday, 29 February 2012

Time: 4.30 pm

Venue: Guildhall, York

AGENDA

- 1. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 3 - 4)
At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda or any other general interests they might have within the remit of the Committee.
- 2. Minutes** (Pages 5 - 12)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2012.
- 3. Public Participation**
At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak on an item on the agenda or an issue within the committee's remit can do so.

Anyone who wishes to register or who requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer for this meeting, details of whom are listed at the foot of this agenda.

The deadline for registering to speak is 5.00pm the working day before the meeting, in this case **5.00pm on Tuesday 28 February 2012.**

4. Presentation on Managing Public Parks

An initial presentation on City of York Council's management of public parks will take place, in support of the Committee's proposed scrutiny review.

**5. Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny (Pages 13 - 14)
Committee Workplan 2011-12**

Members are asked to consider the Committee's workplan for the 2011-12 municipal year.

6. Attendance of the Chair of York@Large

The Chair of York@Large will be in attendance at the meeting to discuss the ongoing work of York@Large and how it works with the Council and other partners to deliver any joint services.

7. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officers

Catherine Clarke and Louise Cook (job share)

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551031
- Email catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk and louise.cook@york.gov.uk

(If contacting by email, please send to both Democracy officers named above).

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officers responsible for servicing this meeting, as listed above.

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

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If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

A leaflet on public participation is available on the Council's website or from Democratic Services by telephoning York (01904) 551088

Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

Access Arrangements

We will make every effort to make the meeting accessible to you. The meeting will usually be held in a wheelchair accessible venue with an induction hearing loop. We can provide the agenda or reports in large print, electronically (computer disk or by email), in Braille or on audio tape. Some formats will take longer than others so please give as much notice as possible (at least 48 hours for Braille or audio tape).

If you have any further access requirements such as parking close-by or a sign language interpreter then please let us know. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the order of business for the meeting.

Every effort will also be made to make information available in another language, either by providing translated information or an

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Holding the Cabinet to Account

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Cabinet (39 out of 47). Any 3 non-Cabinet councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Cabinet (or Cabinet Member Decision Session) agenda. The Cabinet will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Cabinet meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
- Relevant Council Officers get copies of relevant agenda and reports for the committees which they report to;
- Public libraries get copies of **all** public agenda/reports.

Learning and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2011-12**Agenda Item 1 – Declarations of Interest**

Please state any amendments you have to your declarations of interest.

Committee Members

Councillor Fitzpatrick Member of York Theatre Royal Board.

Councillor Brooks A regular communicant of the Church of England.
Member of St Nicholas Church, Dunnington,
Parochial Church Council.
Her son is a novice with a Roman Catholic order

Substitutes

Councillor Douglas Is a parent of a child that attends a York primary school.

Councillor Hodgson Employee of the Defence Business Services that deal with CRB checks.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	LEARNING & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	25 JANUARY 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS REID (CHAIR), BROOKS, JEFFRIES, LEVENE, TAYLOR, WATSON, BURTON (SUBSTITUTE FOR CLLR FITZPATRICK) AND HODGSON (SUBSTITUTE FOR CLLR CUNNINGHAM- CROSS)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS CUNNINGHAM-CROSS AND FITZPATRICK

30. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in relation to the business on the agenda or any other general interests they might have within the remit of the Committee.

Councillor Brooks declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 (Review of Demographics for York Primary Schools) as she is a regular communicant of the Church of England and a member of St Nicholas Church, Dunnington, Parochial Church Council and her son is a novice with a Roman Catholic order.

Councillor Hodgson declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in any business in relation to CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks due to his employment, as the defence business services provide national security vetting for other government departments such as the police and education.

31. **INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed Mrs Rachel Barber and Mrs Paula Widdowson, two new statutory co-opted Members (Parent Governor Representatives) to their first meeting of the Committee.

32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

33. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 December 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to:

- i) The finish time for the meeting being changed from 5.40pm to 6.40pm.
- ii) The fifth paragraph of Minute 26 (Presentation on Corporate Parenting) being amended as follows:
".....Concerns were expressed that arrangements such as pre-natal classes may not be fully accessible and Members emphasised the need for the council to work closely *with the health services and the CVS (Council for Voluntary Services) and the Voluntary and Community Sector Forum for Learning Difficulties to ensure that adequate pre- and post-natal support is available to parents.....*"

34. YORK THEATRE ROYAL SERVICE AGREEMENT: 2011/12 PART YEAR PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Members considered a report which informed them of the progress and performance of the York Theatre Royal under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) which runs to March 2012.

The Chief Executive of York Theatre Royal gave details of the theatre's performance during the first half of 2011/2012, as outlined in Annex A to the report.

She explained that as part of work on its new business plan, a survey had been carried out which provided information on

attendance at the theatre by Ward and proved that levels of attendance at the theatre is high across all wards in York. She agreed to provide Members with a breakdown of attendance figures by ward. ¹

Members commended the work of the Theatre Royal and acknowledged the profile it had achieved nationally.

RESOLVED: (i) That the update be noted.
(ii) That members comments be noted by the Theatre's Chief Executive.

REASON: To fulfil the Council's role under the SLA.

Action Required

1. Head of Arts and Culture to forward attendance GC statistics broken down by ward to Members.

35. REVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHICS FOR YORK PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Committee considered the draft final report of the Demographics Review which presented them with the information gathered in support of the review and the Committee's findings and recommendations. Members were asked to agree any revisions required to it and identify any appropriate recommendations arising from the review in relation to the second objective (to identify whether the current school travel policies are fair and appropriate given the changing demographics)

Members agreed that in relation to Objective A (whether the oversubscription criteria in use in York's community and voluntary controlled schools is made up of the right priorities, and in the right order), the oversubscription criteria was correct and should therefore remain unchanged.

Members then looked at objective B and considered additional information which had been requested at the last meeting, namely some feedback from East Riding of Yorkshire Council on their previous withdrawal of denominational transport (annex F) and a breakdown (into primary and secondary school and by transport type, on a year by year basis) of potential savings that

could be made if a decision was taken to carry out a phased withdrawal of free denominational transport,(annex G)

In relation to the potential savings, Members asked for clarification on the date given in the tables when the change would come into force. Officers explained that it was not possible to withdraw travel before this date due to the need to consult on the change. Officers explained that North Yorkshire County Council had begun a phased withdrawal of free denominational transport this academic year, and were offering affected pupils the opportunity to purchase seats on existing transport where available.

Members agreed to recommend option 3 i.e.to carry out a phased withdrawal of free denominational transport but charge concessionary fares to those currently receiving free transport on that basis. The Committee agreed to recommend that the Local Authority support affected schools with the implementation of the change in policy.

RESOLVED: (i) That Members comments in relation to the review's second objective be noted and:

(a) option 3 (to carry out a phased withdrawal of free denominational transport but charge concessionary fares to those currently receiving free transport on that basis) be recommended

(b) it be recommended that the Local Authority works with affected schools to support them during the implementation of the change in policy.

(ii) That paragraphs 45 and 47 of the draft final report be updated and delegation be given to the Chair to sign off the final report.

REASON: In order to conclude the review in line with scrutiny procedure and protocols.

36. CORPORATE PARENTING REVIEW

Members considered a report which provided further information in support of the Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Review, including

information on the responsibilities of Councillors as corporate parents and details of the Council's plans to improve the academic achievement of Looked After Children.

Members viewed a DVD which explained the Council's "Pledge" - the City of York Council's commitment to children and young people in care, which was written by young people and endorsed by the Council. Officers explained that the Pledge was a clear statement to children and young people about what life should be like if the local authority is looking after them.

Members discussed the attainment figures contained in Annex 2. The Virtual Head teacher explained the role of the multi-agency senior leadership team (made up of very experienced practitioners), i.e. to raise the profile of Looked After Children, to liaise with head teachers to make sure tracking mechanisms were in place in schools to ensure Looked After Children were achieving well, and to take action when required.

Members were advised that the School Improvement Partners were currently looking at how the Virtual School could reward Looked After Children for their achievements(including attainment in school and in out of school activities), and would be discussing ways of tracking their attainment when they meet again with Heads in March.

Members noted officers written response to the questions in section 10 of the Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID) document '10 Questions to Ask if you're Scrutinising services for Looked After Children'. Members were advised that every year elected Members receive a briefing on corporate parenting to increase their awareness of their role. Also, the Show Me that I Matter Panel (SMTIMP) meets monthly to discuss the views, concerns and ideas of children in care, and meets regularly with elected Members and senior officers to make their views known (including the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young Peoples Services).

The Committee learnt that the first meeting of the proposed Corporate Parenting Board would take place in February/early March. The Board would look at issues including a review of the adoption process, fostering processes, children's homes and would be responsible for holding officers to account. Members endorsed its establishment and agreed it was a good way to

move forward, but asked that the Board look at ways to engage with other elected Members who were not on the Board.

Members agreed that, in view of the proposed establishment of the Corporate Parenting Board, it was no longer necessary to progress the Corporate Parenting scrutiny review. However they agreed it was important that they be kept informed of developments in that area and asked that the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services keep them updated.

One member reiterated her concerns expressed at the last meeting, regarding the level of pre and post natal support available to parents with learning difficulties. Officers advised that they were working with Children's Centres to provide information/support for all new parents, including those who have a disability. Officers stressed that any decision to remove a child from the parent was part of a very rigorous process and that process would take into account whether the LA had provided the appropriate support and information to a parent to enable their child to remain in their care. And, therefore the number of children in York entering into the care system for this reason, was tiny.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That due to the establishment of the Corporate Parenting Board, it was unnecessary to continue with the Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Review.
 - (ii) That the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People's Services be asked to keep the Committee routinely informed on progress in this area.

REASON: To ensure compliance with scrutiny procedures and protocols.

37. YORK MUSEUMS TRUST - ADDITIONAL BRIEFING REPORT

Members received an additional briefing on the formation of York Museums Trust (YMT), as requested at the last meeting of the Committee. Based on this additional information and all the information previously provided, Members were asked to decide whether or not they wished to proceed with a scrutiny review of the topic proposed by Councillor Watson.

The Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning and Culture, advised that York Museums Trust had been successful in a bid for increased direct government funding and as a consequence, in future, a larger proportion of the Trust's funding would come from central government rather than City of York Council. He explained it was therefore important to see YMT as an independent organisation rather than an offshoot of the council. He advised that scrutinising the Trust's processes would therefore not be appropriate but scrutinising what the Council got from the Trust for their money was an option.

Councillor Watson drew Members attention to paragraph 24 (Risk Management) of the report which set out the risk to the council if the cataloguing of the collections was not completed in line with the partnership delivery plan.

Members considered whether to focus their review on a statement contained within Appendix A, Annex 4 (The Management of the Collections) which read 'The Trust will endeavour to meet all appropriate collections management standards within 10 years and will aim to surpass them' .

Officers agreed it would be worthwhile looking at how much of the museums' collections have been catalogued. They also advised that both the Collections Management and the Acquisitions and Disposals Policy were due for review and suggested Members also look at those as part of their review.

RESOLVED: That a scrutiny review be undertaken to determine whether York Museums Trust had achieved appropriate collections management standards, in line with the Collections Loan Agreement and Collections Management Protocol agreed in 2002.

REASON: To ensure compliance with scrutiny procedures and protocols.

38. LEARNING AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN 2011-12

Members considered the Committee's workplan for the remainder of the 2011-12 municipal year.

The Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning and Culture, advised that subject to the agreement of the Assistant Director, Communities and Neighbourhoods and availability of officers, they would be able to bring a briefing paper/presentation on the York Museums Trust collection to the next meeting on 29 February. Members agreed that following this presentation, it would be worthwhile considering setting up a sub-group who would be able to meet on a more regular basis to take this review forward.

The scrutiny officer highlighted the limited time available before the end of the municipal year in which to undertake both the YMY review and the possible review on Managing Public Parks, which Members were due to receive a presentation on at the next meeting on 29 February. She advised that it was preferable for reviews to be completed within the current municipal year rather than continue into the next municipal year, due to possible changes in committee membership. Members expressed the view that having to complete all reviews before the end of the municipal year was very constraining and agreed that they were happy for reviews to continue into the new municipal year.

RESOLVED: That the workplan be updated to reflect the decisions detailed above.

REASON: To progress the work of the committee.

Councillor Reid, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 7.15 pm].

Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2011-12

Meeting Date	Work Programme
21 June 2011 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Committee Remit & Terms of Reference 2. Presentations by Assistant Directors on ongoing work within directorates & future planned work 3. Report on Draft Workplan for 2011-12
3 August 2011 @ 5pm (TBC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of Relevant Executive Members 2. York Theatre Royal – Service Level Agreement Performance Update Report & Briefing on Renewal of Contract in April 2012 (Liz Wilson to attend) 3. Workplan
28 Sept 2011 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan – Performance Report & Renewal of PDP for 2013-18 2. First Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 3. Presentation on Demographics in York Primary Schools 4. Update Report on implementation of recommendations arising from previously completed reviews - Cultural Quarter & Casual Play 5. Workplan
11 October 2011	Tour of Theatre Royal & De Grey Buildings followed by performance of '40 Years On'
2 November 2011	Demographics Scrutiny Review – Informal Information Gathering Session
7 Dec 2011 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Second Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 2. Presentation on Corporate Parenting 3. Demographics Review – Formal Interim Report 4. York Museums Trust – New Topic Assessment Report 5. Workplan
25 Jan 2012 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. York Theatre Royal – Service Level Agreement Performance Update Report 2. Report on Demographics Review 3. Report on Corporate Parenting Review 4. Additional Briefing Report re proposed scrutiny topic on York Museums Trust 5. Workplan
29 Feb 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of Chair of York@Large - Diane Willcocks 2. Presentation on Managing Public Parks 3. Workplan
21 March 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of Chair of Learning City – Pete Dwyer 2. Third Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report 3. York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan Performance Update Report 4. Workplan

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