

Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee 12th February 2020

Report of the Corporate Director of Economy and Place.

2019/20 Finance & Performance Monitor 2 Report

Summary

1. This report provides details of the 2019/20 forecast outturn position for both finance and performance across services within the Economy and Place Directorate. The paper incorporates data to September 2019 as reported to Executive on 21st January 2020.

Analysis - Finance

2. A summary of the services within Economy and Place is shown below and further detail is provided in Annex 1:

	Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Economy and Place			
Transport	6,764	6,689	-75
Fleet	-232	-182	+50
Highways	3,144	3,144	0
Parking Operations	1,301	1,301	0
Parking Income	-7,155	-7,655	-500
Waste	12,716	13,111	+395
Public Realm	2,982	2,982	0
Emergency Planning	120	120	0
Development Management	-301	-301	0
Forward Planning	589	589	0
Building Control & Land Charges	-414	-394	+20
Environmental Management	381	381	0
Environmental Health & Licensing	614	612	-2
Asset and Property Management	-3,149	-3,149	0
Economic Development	541	541	0
Management and Support	990	990	0
Mitigation	0	-25	-25
TOTAL	18,891	18,754	-137

Note: '+' indicates an increase in expenditure or shortfall in income
'-' indicates a reduction in expenditure or increase in income

3. A small net underspend of £137k is forecast primarily due higher than budgeted income from car parking offset by cost pressures within waste services.
4. Car Park income continues to perform strongly with income levels 2.4% higher than the corresponding period in 2018/19 and 6% higher than budget. Assuming a continuation of this trend this will result in a positive budget variance of £400k. There is also a forecast surplus on Season Tickets and Resident Parking totalling £100k. Whilst the additional income across parking is positive in mitigating overspends it is necessary to consider that this will be required over the medium term as the council has ambitions to build a Multi Storey Car Park at St George's Field and to close Castle Car Park. During construction this will reduce parking capacity and will impact upon revenue with a level of uncertainty about usage in the longer term.
5. There is a forecast overspend (£345k) in waste collection. This is mainly due to the deployment of staff above budgeted levels in order to deliver the service. Work is ongoing to review how the service is delivered. There is also a forecast shortfall in income on commercial waste £50k.

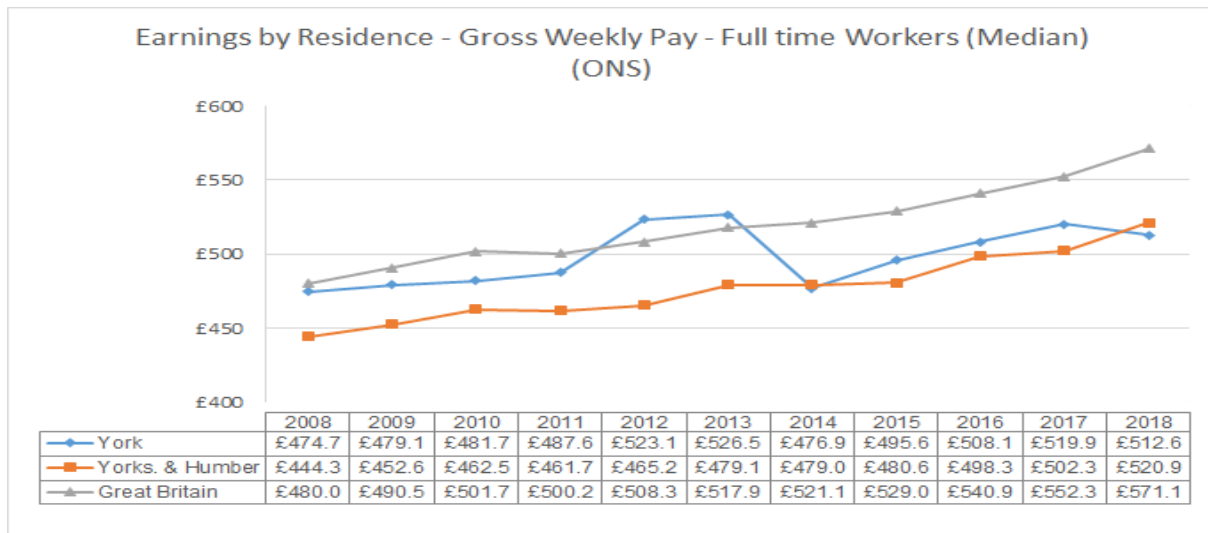
Analysis – Performance – Council Plan Outcomes

6. The 2019/20 scorecard for Economy and Place is attached at Annex 2. Other key performance information is included in the following paragraphs.

Well paid jobs and an inclusive economy

Median earnings of residents – Gross weekly pay

7. In April 2018, the median gross weekly earnings for full-time resident employees in York were £512.60, a decrease of 1.4% (excluding inflation) from £519.30 in 2017. Since the economic downturn of 2008 to 2009, growth (excluding inflation), has been fairly steady, averaging approximately 1.1% per year up to 2017. Nationally the increase was 1.5% and regionally, 1.3% over the same period.



% of vacant city centre shops compared to other cities

8. At the end of Q2 2019-20, there were 43 vacant shops in the city centre which is a reduction from 53 at the end of Q2 2017-18. The number of vacant shops equates to 6.7% of all city centre shops which is lower than the national benchmark in Q1 2019-20 of 11.7%. The York figure hasn't fluctuated a great deal in the past 10 years, with a high of 9.16% in 2016-17 and the national benchmark figure has remained fairly stable too, with a high of 12.3% in 2013-14. The challenges faced by York city centre are the same as those faced nationally due to changing consumer behaviour. Provisional figures show that Parliament Street footfall up to September 2019-20 has decreased by 3.25% since 2018-19. This reflects the national picture as Springboard BRC has reported the average decline of 2% in the last six months and a 10% decline in the last 7 years.

% of working age population in employment (16-64)

9. In 2018-19, 78.4% of the working age population were in employment, which is higher than the national and regional figures (75.4% and 73.7% respectively). The York score gives the city a ranking of 2 regionally and represents a continued yearly upward trend.

Getting around sustainably

P&R Passenger Journeys

10. In 2018-19 there were a total of 4.24 million Park and Ride passenger journeys into and out of the city. This is lower than in 2017-18 (4.25m) and the lowest in the previous 6 years (with a

high of 4.61m in 2015-16). The 2019-20 Q1 figure of 1.03m (provisional) is higher than the Q1 figure in 2018-19 (0.99m) but lower than the Q1 figures in the previous 6 years.

Local bus passenger journeys

11. In 2018-19 there were 12 million local bus passenger journeys that originated in the local authority area. This is the same number of journeys as in 2017-18 and there has been a steady increase over the previous 5 years (from 9.7m in 2012/13). The 2019-20 Q1 figure of 2.91m journeys is slightly less than the Q1 figure in 2018-19 (2.92m), but higher than the previous few years.

% of ROAD and pathway network that are grade 4 (poor condition) or grade 5 (very poor condition) - Roadways / Pathways

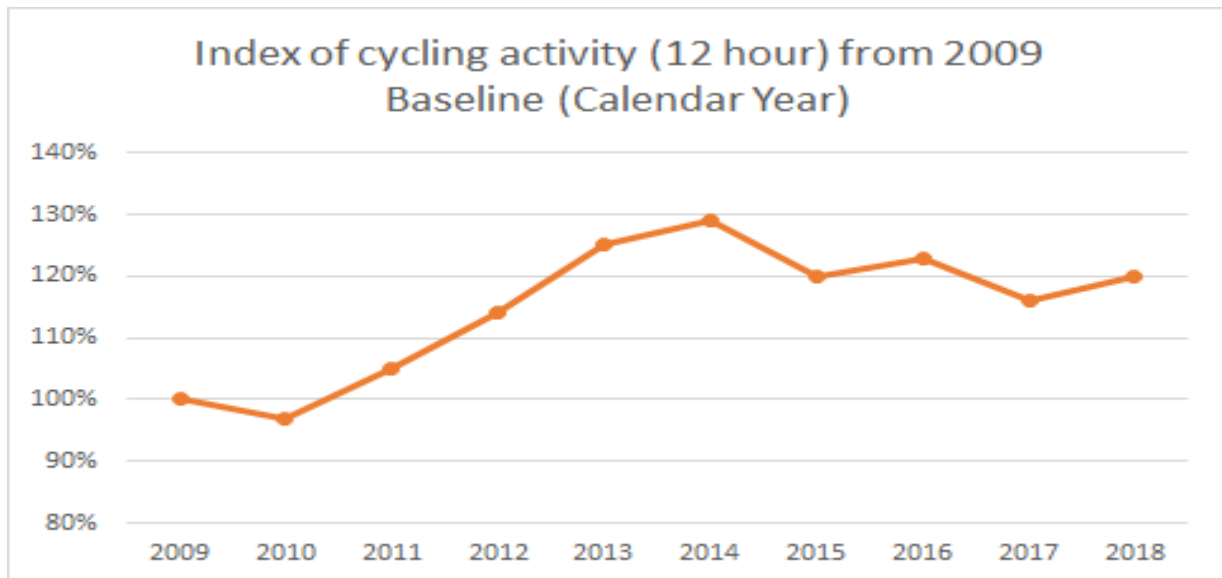
12. In 2019-20, 20% of the road network was classed as in poor or very poor condition. This is a slight decrease from 2018-19 and 2017-18 (23% and 24% respectively but still remains higher than in previous years (with a low of 13% in 2010/11). In 2019-20, 3% of the pathway network was classed as in poor or very poor condition. This remains relatively low compared with previous years with a high of 6% in 2015-16.

Area Wide Traffic Levels (07:00 -19:00) (Excluding A64)

13. Between 2011-12 and 2016-17 the number of vehicles on the city's roads increased year on year to a high of 2.2 million. Since then the numbers have slowly decreased to a provisional figure of 2.15 million in 2018-19. This slight decrease in numbers is set against a backdrop of a city with an increasing population.

Index of cycling activity (12 hour) / % of residents actively cycling and national comparisons

14. From a baseline in 2009 (31,587), there has been a 20% increase in cycling activity in 2018. The highest level seen since the baseline was established was in 2014 where there was a 29% increase above the baseline.



15. Statistics around walking and cycling in England in 2018 were published during August 2019. The data is based on two main sources, The National Travel Survey and the Active Lives Survey. The picture for York residents is a positive one with a higher than average proportion engaging in both walking and cycling (the % of adults in York who walk five times per week (39.7%) is higher than regional and national averages (29.9% and 32%)).

Index of pedestrians walking to and from the City Centre (12 hour in and out combined)

16. From a baseline in 2009-10 (37,278), there has been a 26% increase in the number of pedestrians walking to and from the city centre. This is 16% higher than in 2017. This is the highest increase seen since the baseline was established.

% of customers arriving at York Station by sustainable modes of transport (cycling, walking, taxi or bus – excluding cars, lift, motorcycle or train)

17. In 2018, 73% (provisional) of customers arrived at York station by sustainable modes of transport which is an increase from 71% in 2017 but lower than 75% in 2016.
18. A programme of works is underway to update occupancy counters in three city centre car parks and procure a new system for managing payments and record occupancy in a further two car parks. Once the programme is complete and data is available, this will be published to York Open Data.

A Greener and Cleaner City

Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting

19. The latest provisional data of 56% in Q1 2019/20 shows that the amount of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting has increased from 45% in the same period in 2018-19. It is worth noting that recycling rates are usually higher in the first half of the year and therefore could fall by the end of the year.
20. The amount of waste sent to Allerton Waste Recovery Park (in order to divert from landfill) and used for energy recovery in Q1 2019-20, has remained stable at 9,766 tonnes (9,825 tonnes during the same period last year).

Residual household waste per household (kg/household)

21. Provisional Residual waste (i.e. non-recyclable) per household data suggests that there has been a large decrease to 107 kg/household in Q1 2019/20 (from 158 kg/household last year) which supports the increased recycling rate above, although there has been a decrease in the collected household waste per person to 105 tonnes (from 123 last year).

Incidents - Fly tipping / Rubbish / Cleansing (includes dog fouling, litter and all other cleansing cases) / Graffiti – On Public/Private Land

22. The number of service calls received due to fly tipping, cleansing (including dog fouling and litter) and graffiti during Q1 2019-20 have all increased since the same period in 2018-19 (fly tipping from 496 to 593, cleansing from 402 to 541 and graffiti from 37 to 71).

Air Quality

23. In June 2019, the Council launched an anti-idling awareness and enforcement campaign for Clean Air Day. The aim of the campaign was to encourage people to think about the importance of clean air and the impact the campaign has on them, their health and those around them by prompting people to switch off their engines and reduce idling. The campaign included an

extensive media campaign and anti-idling patrols and awareness events at schools.

24. To test the effectiveness of the 'Kick the Habit' campaign, an external agency surveyed a demographic of 1,500 respondents in York and the North East of England to gauge their responses. 87% of respondents understood that the advert was about anti-idling behaviour and 76% strongly agreed that the advert would encourage people to consider switching off their engine when waiting. The survey was also sent to the Talkabout citizens' panel where 232 members participated.
25. Since the City of York Council launched the anti-idling policy in June 2019, they have undertaken 23 anti-idling patrols and spoken to around 60 drivers. As a result of these patrols, over 5 hours of anti-idling have been prevented. The annual Air Quality status report is due to be presented to the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change during November.

Trees Planted

26. A new initiative, Treemendous York, has grown out of a recommendation in the 'York City Beautiful: Toward an Economic Vision' report, to promote a city which is healthier, greener, more environmentally friendly, beautiful and successful. The initiative has a target of planting 50,000 trees in the Greater York area and needs support from local residents and businesses by offering land, donating trees, giving time to plant trees and watering newly planted trees.
27. Friends of the Earth have sourced data by local authority area on a range of issues relevant to climate change. The data is either from official government or other credible sources. Local authority performance is compared to that of other similar local authorities (identified and grouped using the Office of National Statistics Residential-based area classifications). Data has been collected on the following:
 - Proportion of commuting journey made by public transport, bike or walking
 - What bike use could be
 - Lift sharing
 - Electric vehicle charging points
 - Housing energy efficiency
 - Eco heating

- Renewable energy production
 - Tree cover
 - Waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting
 - Declaring a climate emergency
28. Local authority areas are scored based on their performance compared to other local authority areas using a league table approach. Each authority is given a combined score, which is converted to a percentage of the possible highest score. York has been given a score of 68% which is considered average when compared to other local authorities. The report recommends York needs to do better on improving home insulation, increasing renewable energy and increasing tree cover. In the 2019/20 supplementary budget announcement, it was agreed that investment would be made in the 'Building Insulation Programme'. A programme of increasing the energy efficiency of our Council housing stock would begin, including the potential inclusion of renewable energy and integrating this with the modernisation and decent homes standard work.

% of Talkabout panel who think that the council and partners are doing well at improving green spaces

29. In the latest (Q1 2019-20) Talkabout survey, responses continued to reflect that panellists thought the council and partners could do more to improve green spaces with only 38% of respondents agreeing that the council and partners were doing well.

Creating Homes and World-class infrastructure

New Additional Homes Provided

30. During 2018-19 there were a total of 449 net additional homes completed (this compares to a yearly average of 850 additional homes completed over the previous five years). Of these additional homes:
- 77.3% were completed on housing sites.
 - 8.9% were a result of off campus privately managed student accommodation schemes
 - 6.2% resulted from 'prior approval' i.e. sites benefitting from relaxed permitted development rights to allow conversion to residential use.

- Changes of use of existing buildings to residential use and conversions to existing residential properties accounted for 34.5% of all completions.
- Development sites including Land at Metcalfe Lane, former Grain Stores (Water Lane), former Oliver House site in Bishophill Senior and the change of use of offices at Rowntree Wharf all provided notable completions over the year.

Net Housing Consents

31. Figures for 2018-19 shows that, positively, there were 1,628 net housing consents granted which represents a continued high level of approvals. Of these approvals, 96.4% were for traditional housing sites which include the Former British Sugar Corporation Site (up to 1100 new homes), the Former Lowfield School Site (165 new homes proposed) and York St John University Playing Fields Site (outline approval for 70 homes). These approvals represent significant future planned housing developments for the city.

Implications

32. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

33. The report provides Members with updates on finance and service performance and therefore there are no significant risks in the content of the report.

Recommendations

34. As this report is for information only, there are no recommendations.

Reason: To update the scrutiny committee of the latest finance and performance position.

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Neil Ferris
Corporate Director of Economy and Place

**Report
Approved**



Date 30th January
2020

Annex

Annex 1 – Financial Performance

Annex 2 – Scrutiny Performance Scorecard