

## CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 25th September, 2008, starting at 6.30 pm.

**Present:** The Lord Mayor (Cllr Brian Watson) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

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

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK  
WARD

Hyman  
Orrell  
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser  
Gunnell  
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies  
Healey  
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON  
WITHOUT WARD

Moore  
I Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Kirk  
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway  
Sue Galloway  
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Watt.  
Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Jamieson-Ball.

**25. FORMER LADY MAYORESS MRS MOLLY PULLEYN**

Members observed a minute's silence in respect of former Lady Mayoress Mrs Molly Pulleyn, who had recently died.

**26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**27. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 June 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the entry under Minute 13 (Declarations of Interest) being amended to record Cllr Scott's interest as personal and non prejudicial.

**28. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Lord Mayor announced the planned launch of HMS Dragon, which would replace HMS York as the City ship, on 17 November 2008.

**29. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Paul Hunter spoke in support of the petition to be presented under the next agenda item by Cllr Simpson-Laing, on behalf of residents of Newlands Drive.

Barbara Robinson spoke in support of the petition to be presented under the next agenda item by Cllr D'Agorne, regarding safety at the Broadway shops.

Mark Warters spoke in relation to land to the west of Metcalfe Lane, in Osbaldwick. He welcomed the interest shown by the European Commission regarding a potential breach of procurement rules in acquiring the site, which might lead to the failure of the Derwenthorpe development.

**30. PETITIONS**

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

- (i) A petition presented by Cllr Wiseman, on behalf of residents of Strensall, concerning drainage, road surfacing and white lining in their area.<sup>1</sup>
- (ii) A petition presented by Cllr Potter, on behalf of residents seeking the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in residential streets in York.<sup>2</sup>
- (iii) A petition presented by Cllr Simpson-Laing, on behalf of residents of Newlands Drive, seeking traffic measures to stop 'rat running' in their street as a consequence of the Manor School Traffic Project.<sup>3</sup>
- (iv) A petition presented by Cllr Hogg, on behalf of residents of Haxby objecting to the proposed erection of a mobile 'phone mast in Oak Tree Lane, Haxby.<sup>4</sup>
- (v) A petition presented by Cllr Douglas, on behalf of residents of Clifton Dale, seeking a review of traffic problems on the Clifton Green hypoteneuse.<sup>5</sup>
- (vi) A petition presented by Cllr Douglas, on behalf of residents asking the Council to provide a shared cycle / footpath on the highway at Crichton Avenue.<sup>6</sup>
- (vii) A petition presented by Cllr D'Agorne, on behalf of residents calling for improved parking arrangements at Broadway shops, in the interests of pedestrian safety.<sup>7</sup>

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

Action Required

- 1. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee - add SL to Forward Plan if referred to Executive.
- 2. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee - add SL to Forward Plan if referred to Executive.
- 3. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee - add SL to Forward Plan if referred to Executive.
- 4. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee - add SL to Forward Plan if referred to Executive.
- 5. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee - add SL to Forward Plan if referred to Executive.
- 6. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee - add SL to Forward Plan if referred to Executive.
- 7. Refer petition to Executive or appropriate committee - add SL to Forward Plan if referred to Executive.

## 31. NOTICES OF MOTION

### (i) Fuel Poverty

It was moved by Cllr Vassie and seconded by Cllr Sue Galloway that:

“Council notes that:

- 1) Almost a quarter of people in the UK are expected to be in fuel poverty by next year. Average household electricity bills are already expected to increase to more than £500 per year by 2010, and gas bills to around £900.
- 2) The Government has announced its intention to introduce a £910m package, paid for by energy companies, which is designed to tackle fuel poverty through a number of measures.
- 3) Worthwhile investment has been made this year to improve smart metering – the displaying of energy consumption – in approximately 20 council buildings.
- 4) Energy companies have profited from a £9 billion windfall from the EU emissions trading scheme and are therefore able to contribute significantly more to increasing energy efficiency and cutting bills than the Government’s package recommends.

Council believes that the measures of the Government’s £910m package do not go far enough; they will not reduce fuel bills in the short term, and do not place a mandatory condition on energy companies to not pass the cost of this package onto the consumer, despite the emissions trading windfall.

Council resolves to:

- 1) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business to request that energy companies use this windfall, rather than pass the cost onto the customer, and to provide:
  - A national home insulation programme, as proposed by the Local Government Association, which would use £500m a year from energy companies to ensure that 500,000 people are lifted out of fuel poverty as well as sustain locally generated employment;
  - Social tariffs, to ensure that the 2.25 million people on pre-payment meters are not unfairly penalised by disproportionately high bills, costing the energy companies in the region of £275m a year.
  - A wide scale introduction of smart meters in people’s homes to record consumption rates, allowing consumers to know where changes can be made in their energy use to reduce bills.
- 2) Work with the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre for York to assist with the promotion of smart metering in residents’ homes to help people facing fuel poverty in the city.
- 3) Request that council officers investigate the inclusion of smart metering in Tenants Choice.”

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

“In the first paragraph (starting ‘*Council notes that*’):

- in 3), insert ‘*in York*’ after ‘*this year*’

- add '5) Kirklees Council has been praised by the Local Government Association for an initiative that will see every household in Kirklees given the option of free loft and cavity wall insulation.'

In the third paragraph (starting 'Council resolves to'):

- in 1), insert 'regulations are changed to ensure that' after 'to request that'
- add '4) Request Officers to prepare a report within three months outlining options for a Council-led area based insulation scheme (as proposed by the LGA) to urgently address fuel poverty within the City for both public sector and private housing.'"

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

*"Council notes that:*

- 1) *Almost a quarter of people in the UK are expected to be in fuel poverty by next year. Average household electricity bills are already expected to increase to more than £500 per year by 2010, and gas bills to around £900.*
- 2) *The Government has announced its intention to introduce a £910m package, paid for by energy companies, which is designed to tackle fuel poverty through a number of measures.*
- 3) *Worthwhile investment has been made this year in York to improve smart metering – the displaying of energy consumption – in approximately 20 council buildings.*
- 4) *Energy companies have profited from a £9 billion windfall from the EU emissions trading scheme and are therefore able to contribute significantly more to increasing energy efficiency and cutting bills than the Government's package recommends.*
- 5) *Kirklees Council has been praised by the Local Government Association for an initiative that will see every household in Kirklees given the option of free loft and cavity wall insulation.*

*Council believes that:*

*The measures of the Government's £910m package do not go far enough; they will not reduce fuel bills in the short term, and do not place a mandatory condition on energy companies to not pass the cost of this package onto the consumer, despite the emissions trading windfall.*

*Council resolves to:*

- 1) *Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business to request that regulations are changed to ensure that energy companies use this windfall, rather than pass the cost onto the customer, and to provide:*
  - *A national home insulation programme, as proposed by the Local Government Association, which would use £500m a year from energy companies to ensure that 500,000 people are lifted out of fuel poverty as well as sustain locally generated employment;*
  - *Social tariffs, to ensure that the 2.25 million people on pre-payment meters are not unfairly penalised by disproportionately high bills, costing the energy companies in the region of £275m a year.*

- *A wide scale introduction of smart meters in people's homes to record consumption rates, allowing consumers to know where changes can be made in their energy use to reduce bills.*
- 2) *Work with the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre for York to assist with the promotion of smart metering in residents' homes to help people facing fuel poverty in the city.*
  - 3) *Request that council officers investigate the inclusion of smart metering in Tenants Choice.*
  - 4) *Request Officers to prepare a report within three months outlining options for a Council-led area based insulation scheme (as proposed by the LGA) to urgently address fuel poverty within the City for both public sector and private housing.”]*

Cllr Simpson-Laing, having given notice of a second amendment to the original motion, then sought leave to alter her amendment in order to adapt it to the amended motion.

At this point, the meeting was adjourned to enable the altered wording to be agreed.

The meeting having been re-convened and Council having consented to the alteration, Cllr Simpson-Laing moved, and Cllr Scott seconded, the altered amendment, as follows:

“In the first paragraph insert an additional point at the end:

*‘6) The £910m package to tackle fuel poverty is welcomed but it will not necessarily help those who live in the Private Rented Sector.’*

In the third paragraph:

Insert after point 1) a new point 2), to read as follows:

*‘2) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and the Minister for Housing to address the concern for those who live in the Private Rented Sector, whose homes do not currently meet the minimum insulation and energy efficiency standards and ask that a minimum standard is set and enforced for this sector of the housing market as a matter of urgency.’*

Re-number the previous points 2), 3) and 4) as points 3), 4) and 5) respectively.

Insert an additional point 6), to read as follows:

*‘6) Provide 40 smart meters to be made available in York's libraries so that York residents can see the benefits they provide; such meters being funded from reserves (£800).’*”

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

**The motion, as further amended, now read as follows:**

*“Council notes that:*

- 1) *Almost a quarter of people in the UK are expected to be in fuel poverty by next year. Average household electricity bills are already expected to increase to more than £500 per year by 2010, and gas bills to around £900.*

- 2) *The Government has announced its intention to introduce a £910m package, paid for by energy companies, which is designed to tackle fuel poverty through a number of measures.*
- 3) *Worthwhile investment has been made this year in York to improve smart metering – the displaying of energy consumption – in approximately 20 council buildings.*
- 4) *Energy companies have profited from a £9 billion windfall from the EU emissions trading scheme and are therefore able to contribute significantly more to increasing energy efficiency and cutting bills than the Government's package recommends.*
- 5) *Kirklees Council has been praised by the Local Government Association for an initiative that will see every household in Kirklees given the option of free loft and cavity wall insulation.*
- 6) *The £910m package to tackle fuel poverty is welcomed but it will not necessarily help those who live in the Private Rented Sector.'*

*Council believes that:*

*The measures of the Government's £910m package do not go far enough; they will not reduce fuel bills in the short term, and do not place a mandatory condition on energy companies to not pass the cost of this package onto the consumer, despite the emissions trading windfall.*

*Council resolves to:*

- 1) *Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business to request that regulations are changed to ensure that energy companies use this windfall, rather than pass the cost onto the customer, and to provide:*
  - *A national home insulation programme, as proposed by the Local Government Association, which would use £500m a year from energy companies to ensure that 500,000 people are lifted out of fuel poverty as well as sustain locally generated employment;*
  - *Social tariffs, to ensure that the 2.25 million people on pre-payment meters are not unfairly penalised by disproportionately high bills, costing the energy companies in the region of £275m a year.*
  - *A wide scale introduction of smart meters in people's homes to record consumption rates, allowing consumers to know where changes can be made in their energy use to reduce bills.<sup>1</sup>*
- 2) *Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and the Minister for Housing to address the concern for those who live in the Private Rented Sector, whose homes do not currently meet the minimum insulation and energy efficiency standards and ask that a minimum standard is set and enforced for this sector of the housing market as a matter of urgency.<sup>2</sup>*
- 3) *Work with the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre for York to assist with the promotion of smart metering in residents' homes to help people facing fuel poverty in the city.<sup>3</sup>*
- 4) *Request that council officers investigate the inclusion of smart metering in Tenants Choice.<sup>4</sup>*
- 5) *Request Officers to prepare a report within three months outlining options for a Council-led area based insulation scheme (as proposed by the LGA) to urgently address fuel poverty within the City for both public sector and private housing.<sup>5</sup>*



- 6) *Provide 40 smart meters to be made available in York's libraries so that York residents can see the benefits they provide; such meters being funded from reserves (£800).*<sup>6</sup>

The motion, as amended by the first and second amendments was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

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

## **(ii) Delivery of Major Capital Projects**

It was moved by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Pierce that  
"This Council notes the inability of the controlling Lib Dem Executive to deliver major capital projects for the City:

- It has failed to deliver the re-provision of the Peasholme Hostel on time and within budget
- It has failed to deliver the re-provision of City Centre swimming
- It has failed to deliver the Auditorium at the Barbican
- It has failed to deliver the Council HQ building at the Hungate site within the time scales promised.

Council notes that the Executive has now spent or committed £4.8 million of public money on the Hungate HQ project – without laying a single brick. Council considers the Lib Dem Executive's failures in these projects to be one of gross incompetence and mismanagement.

Council notes that ownership and responsibility for the project will now reside with the Director for City Strategy and wish him every success.

Council calls for similar changes in the Executive by the resignation of the Executive Member for City Strategy, Cllr Steve Galloway, who must take ultimate responsibility for the catalogue of bad decisions when he was Leader of the Council.

Council requests the Executive Leader to take personal control and responsibility of all the projects to ensure the delivery of:

- The Peasholme Centre
- The new Council HQ
- The Community Stadium

on time and on budget.

Council requests a monthly report from the Executive Leader from October to all Elected Members detailing the progress of these and future important developments in the City."

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

In the first paragraph, delete all after 'This Council notes' and insert: *'that the Council over the last five years has implemented the largest capital programme in its history and that the vast majority of the programme is being delivered on time and within allocated budgets. ' Against the background of*

*the mismanagement of the national economy by the present government, Council notes that there have been unavoidable delays to some projects.'*

Delete the second, third and fourth paragraphs.

In the fifth paragraph, delete all after 'Council requests the Executive Leader to' and insert: '*produce a monthly report from October to all elected Members detailing the progress being made on important developments by the City of York Council.*'

Delete the sixth paragraph."

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

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion not be approved.

### **(iii) A64 Link Road**

It was moved by Cllr Galvin and seconded by Cllr Wiseman that

"To aid the development of the Terrys Site, Council instructs the appropriate officers to treat as a matter of urgency the need for a Link Road between Bishopthorpe Road and Sim Balk Lane to the south side of the A64. Officers are therefore instructed to report to the Full Council as soon as possible addressing the following options:

- 1) the potential for funding the Link Road, with a contribution from Developers and other sources; or
- 2) the possibility of entering into discussions with the land owners of the proposed route of such link road, with the view to allowing some development for the purpose of funding a Link Road.

Such report to investigate the possibility of constructing a new junction to the west of London Bridge, to facilitate speedy access onto the A64 slip roads."

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

In the first sentence of the first paragraph:

- delete '*treat*' and insert '*develop*'
- after '*urgency*' insert '*and in a timescale to inform any future planning application, an assessment of the need form and effectiveness of providing*'
- delete '*the need for a*'

In the second sentence of the first paragraph:

- delete '*the following options: 1)*'
- delete all of point 2 and substitute '*The report should also indicate how any proposed future development allocated through the LDF process could contribute to the construction costs of such a link road proposal.*'

In the second paragraph:

- between '*report*' and '*to*', insert '*also*'."

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

*“To aid the development of the Terrys Site, the Council instructs the appropriate officers to develop as a matter of urgency and in a timescale to inform any future planning application, an assessment of the need for, and effectiveness of providing, a Link Road between Bishopthorpe Road and Sim Balk Lane to the south side of the A64.*

*Officers are therefore instructed to report to the Full Council as soon as possible addressing the potential for funding the Link Road, with a contribution from Developers and other sources.*

*The report should also indicate how any proposed future development allocated through the LDF process could contribute to the construction costs of such a link road proposal.*

*Such report also to investigate the possibility of constructing a new junction to the west of London Bridge to facilitate speedy access on to the A64 slip roads.”*

Cllr Merrett, having given notice of a second amendment to the original motion, then sought leave to alter his amendment in order to adapt it to the amended motion.

At this point, the meeting was adjourned to enable the altered wording to be agreed.

The meeting having been re-convened and Council having consented to the alteration, Cllr Merrett moved, and Cllr Galvin seconded, the altered amendment, as follows:

“In the first paragraph:

- Delete ‘to’ in the first line and insert ‘*This Council notes that as an*’
- After ‘aid’, insert ‘to’
- After ‘Terrys Site’, delete ‘the Council’ and insert ‘it has been suggested that’ and delete all from ‘instructs’ to ‘providing’.
- After ‘A64’ in the fourth line, insert: ‘*should be considered, and that this also offers the opportunity to keep race day traffic out of the main city area and roads, using this suggested link and the Bustardthorpe access to the Racecourse.*’

*In the second paragraph:*

- Delete all after ‘instructed to’ and insert ‘*undertake a feasibility study and to prepare a detailed report as soon as possible, and in a timescale to inform any future planning application, to include the arguments for and against such a proposal and also to address the potential for funding the Link Road with a contribution from Developers and other sources.*

In the third paragraph, delete all after ‘Such report to’ and insert:

- a) consider the implications for the road network and road junctions in the South West quadrant of the City, of proceeding with the proposed Link Road;*
- b) consider what additional measures might be required to protect residential amenity on Bishopthorpe Road north of the Terrys site and the Nunnery Lane / Price’s Lane gyratory from additional traffic and worsening the already above limit air pollution;*

- c) *investigate the possibility of constructing a new junction to the west of London Bridge to facilitate more effective access on to the A64 slip roads;*
- d) *investigate complementary and / or alternative public transport improvements to address the potential traffic form the Terrys development and to address the serious problems of unreliability and inadequate service frequency of the current main No.11 Bishopthorpe Road / South Bank / Bishopthorpe bus service and*
- e) *investigate other sustainable transport solutions that would facilitate appropriate development of the Terrys site, including much better cycling links than proposed in conjunction with the recent planning application to the city northwards and westwards from the site.”*

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

**The motion, as further amended, now read as follows:**

*"This Council notes that, as an aid to the development of the Terrys Site, it has been suggested that a Link Road between Bishopthorpe Road and Sim Balk Lane to the south side of the A64 should be considered, and that this also offers the opportunity to keep race day traffic out of the main city area and roads, using this suggested link and the Bustardthorpe access to the Racecourse.*

*Officers are therefore instructed to undertake a feasibility study and to prepare a detailed report as soon as possible, and in a timescale to inform any future planning application and also to address the potential for funding the Link Road with a contribution from Developers and other sources. The report should also indicate how any proposed future development allocated through the LDF process could contribute to the construction costs of such a link road proposal.<sup>7</sup>*

*Such report to:*

- a) *consider the implications for the road network and road junctions in the South West quadrant of the City , of proceeding with the proposed Link Road;*
- b) *consider what additional measures might be required to protect residential amenity on Bishopthorpe Road north of the Terrys site and the Nunnery Lane / Price's Lane gyratory from additional traffic and worsening the already above limit air pollution;*
- c) *investigate the possibility of constructing a new junction to the west of London Bridge to facilitate more effective access on to the A64 slip roads;*
- d) *investigate complementary and / or alternative public transport improvements to address the potential traffic form the Terrys development and to address the serious problems of unreliability and inadequate service frequency of the current main No.11 Bishopthorpe Road / South Bank / Bishopthorpe bus service and*
- e) *investigate other sustainable transport solutions that would facilitate appropriate development of the Terrys site, including much better cycling links than proposed in conjunction with the recent planning application to the city northwards and westwards from the site.”*

On being put to the vote, the motion, as amended by the two amendments, was declared CARRIED and it was

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

**(iv) Yozone Card**

It was moved by Cllr Potter and seconded by Cllr Alexander that

“Council instructs the Director of City Strategy to report to the Executive on the implications of working with the City’s bus providers to extend the Yozone card to all young people in full time education up to the age of 19 years.”<sup>8</sup>

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

**(v) New Growth Point Funding**

It was moved by Cllr Waller and seconded by Cllr Runciman that

“Council notes:

- 1) The offer by Leeds City Region Leaders to provide brownfield sites for eco-friendly development in the sub-region in lieu of a single site for an ‘eco-town’.
- 2) That one of these locations was York North West, which had recently been the subject of an unsuccessful bid by the Council for New Growth Point funding.
- 3) That should this funding become available then it would help to underpin the major investment in transport and other infrastructure required if the project is to start in the short term. It would also ensure that more sustainability is built into the design features of the development, and would help to ensure that more affordable housing is provided on the site.

Council requests that an all party delegation from City of York Council be formed to meet with the appropriate Minister with a view to making the case for York North West to receive central government ‘eco’ / growth point funding.”<sup>9</sup>

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.

**Action Required**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Write to Secretary of State for Business in these terms.                                    | DB |
| 2. Write to the Secretary of State for Communities and the Minister of Housing in these terms. | DB |
| 3. Work with Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre to help promote smart metering.                 | SB |
| 4. Investigate the inclusion of smart metering in Tenants                                      | SB |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Choice  |    |
| 5. Include on Forward Plan a report outlining options for a Council-led area based insulation scheme                  | SB |
| 6. Make arrangements for the provision of smart meters in libraries   | CB |
| 7. Undertake feasibility study and produce report   | SL |
| 8. Prepare report to the Executive on the implications of working to extend the Yozone card - include on Forward Plan | SL |
| 9. Co-ordinate the formation of an all party delegation to meet with the Minister, as resolved                        | SL |

### 32. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

A written report was received from the Leader, Cllr Andrew Waller, on the work of the Executive.

Cllr Waller then moved, and Cllr Runciman seconded, those minutes requiring confirmation from the Executive meeting on 29 July 2008, namely:

- Minute 51 – Web Casting of Council Meetings
- Minute 52 – Update on Carry Forward Issues and Key Considerations in the Allocation of Surplus Resources

In commenting on the Leader's report, the Leader of the Opposition asked a number of questions on the Hungate and Community Stadium projects. The Leader responded that there was now a political consensus that the new Council Headquarters should be located in the city centre and that a report on potential sites would be considered at the Executive meeting on 20 October. With regard to the Community Stadium, agreement had already been reached to appoint a project manager and a business case for the stadium would be brought back to Full Council for discussion in due course.

**[At this point in the meeting, the guillotine fell and the remainder of the business was dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 1(c), being deemed to be proposed and seconded and being voted on without debate].**

Cllr Scott moved, and Cllr Looker seconded, an amendment to the Executive recommendation under Minute 51 (Web Casting of Council Meetings), as follows:

*“Delete all after ‘asked to’ and before ‘Council Chamber’ and substitute: ‘proceed with the report option to establish a negotiated contract for web-casting Council meetings. Such a contract should account for utilising’*  
*Delete all after ‘system’ and substitute: ‘and would be based upon web-casting both Full Council meetings as well as a set number of main Planning Committee meetings, based upon a forecast of those major applications likely to come forward for determination each year. Officers to report back on contract negotiations within this calendar year.’”*

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

The recommendation, as amended, now read as follows:

*“That Officers be asked to proceed with the report option to establish a negotiated contract for web-casting Council meetings. Such a contract should account for utilising the Council Chamber for web-casting, using an ‘out-hosted’ system, and would be based upon web-casting both Full Council meetings as well as a set number of main Planning Committee meetings, based upon a forecast of those major applications likely to come forward for determination each year. Officers to report back on contract negotiations within this calendar year.”*

The Executive recommendations, as amended, were then put to the vote and declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: (i) That the recommendation under Minute 51, as amended, be approved and negotiations be commenced on a contract for web casting.<sup>1</sup>

(ii) That the recommendation under Minute 52 be approved and an ‘invest to save’ fund of £1m be established from the General Reserve.<sup>2</sup>

Action Required

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Enter into negotiations for a contract to provide Web Casting | SA |
| 2. Establish an 'invest to save' fund                            | SA |

### **33. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

A written report was received from Cllr Vassie, the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion.

Notice had been received of six questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders.

The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written replies to these questions. The questions and the written responses are set out below:

(i) From Councillor Looker

“Given the precarious state of the financial markets, and the building trade, what written assurances has the Executive Member seen from Barbican Leisure to assure him that the Barbican is going to get its full refurbishment and when are we likely to see some firm dates for re-opening. How secure are the Community Carol Concert and the Festival of Remembrance for 2009?”

## **Reply**

*“Cllr Looker is right to draw attention to the economic circumstances in which we now find ourselves. I share the concerns of all members at the time it is taking to see work begin on the refurbishment of the Barbican.*

*We have received repeated assurances for Absolute Leisure that the Barbican will re-open by Easter 2009. However, we have also seen a lot of time lost in the discharging of the pre-conditions that need to be satisfied prior to the refurbishment commencing.*

*I have been working with officers over the past two weeks to identify which pre-conditions are still outstanding. They include conditions about supplying samples of the glass and cladding that is proposed, a detailed method of works statement, and the submission of a Sustainability Statement. These pre-conditions can plainly not be swept aside. A meeting with Absolute Leisure has been organised for the beginning of October. The meeting will be chaired by Bill Woolley. I expect this meeting either to resolve the matter of the pre-conditions or to set a firm deadline for Absolute Leisure to supply the information to satisfy those pre-conditions. A letter has been sent to Absolute Leisure in advance of this meeting to try to ensure that the meeting resolves matters.*

*I should point out that once the pre-conditions have been satisfied and Absolute Leisure have paid the £0.75 million they have agreed to pay then they will have to pay the approximately £3million refurbishment costs into a joint escrow account in order to pay for the refurbishment works. In other words, CYC cannot be short changed on the refurbishment works.*

*If the meeting does not produce progress then we will be considering all the options available to us. The council has the power to give 4 weeks' notice that it intends to determine the agreement, giving Absolute Leisure the option of either walking away or completing, paying the purchase price, and depositing the £3million. I would hope we do not have to go down that particular path because getting the Barbican refurbished and re-opened as soon as possible is plainly what most people would wish to see and the plans I have seen suggest that the proposed refurbishment would produce the exciting venue we need in York. It should also be borne in mind that when CYC was last running the Barbican it was costing the city around £750k per year.”*

(ii) From Councillor Looker

*“What are the arrangements that the Executive member for Leisure, Heritage and Social Inclusion is making for ensuring the Social Inclusion issues are raised and dealt with at EMAP. Is it not critical that we can be seen to be taking forward a full work plan to improve all elements of Social Inclusion within both CYC and the City?”*



**Reply**

*"I agree that Social Inclusion issues need to be raised and dealt with at EMAP. It is also clear that the workload for groups such as the Social Inclusion Working Group are very onerous and that discussion needs to take place to ensure the programme for the year ahead is manageable.*

*I will ensure that EMAP does get to see and comment on the forward plan for Social Inclusion.*

*Recent meetings of the Social Inclusion Working Group have demonstrated what a valuable contribution these issues make to the fabric of life in our city and the functioning of this local authority. Seeing how written reports are presented to those with learning difficulties offers an insight into the huge gap between reports produced for officers and members and reports produced for the public at large. Quite frankly I believe most residents, myself included, would prefer reports that paid far more attention to presentation."*

(iii) From Cllr Orrell

*"Could the Executive Member update us on user numbers and energy efficiency data at Yearsley Pool?"*

**Reply**

*As can be seen in my Executive report, user numbers are up 34.7% since the revamp of Yearsley pool. Quarterly figures show that April to June this year 34,396 visits were made to the pool, compared with 25,534 for the same period in 2007.*

*Re: energy efficiency data, as the Executive report makes clear, bills for steam used to heat the pool have more than halved. I am still awaiting detailed information on electricity consumption. I understand similar savings have been made.*

*I want to congratulate both officers responsible for the revamp and staff operating the pool for all the hard work."*

(iv) From Cllr Looker

*"While fascinated by the prospect of the nuclear history of York (presumably in the "nuclear bomb" sense rather than in the purer physics sense) does the Executive member feel confident that we are going to see a comprehensive plan for the City Archives coming out of Richard Taylor's work, and when does he hope to see this come to fruition, and to EMAP?"*

**Reply**

*"Yes, I am confident that Richard Taylor will produce a comprehensive plan for the City Archives. I think seconding him from the National Railway Museum has been a fantastic move for the city and really does offer us the opportunity to move forwards with the city archives. Richard understands better than most the national context for archives, and the need to be creative and imaginative about how they are made*

*available to the public, residents, visitors and academic institutions around the world. York has previously struggled because our vision for the archives was more about finding a home for a load of tricky and demanding old paper rather than a plan for opening up access to the city's history. The scrutiny report on the archives challenged that lack of vision and set the course for appointing someone from outside the council to move the issue forwards.*

*York has an incredible collection of invaluable archival material, equal to the quality of our built historic environment, going back many hundreds of years, from documents concerning the running of the city to the reports produced by non-conformists, such as the Rowntrees, looking into poverty in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. What we need is an imaginative plan for making these documents available to the many. With the appetite for local history, and our plans for an expansion of the Central Library, and Richard Taylor's input, I have every confidence that we can create a blueprint for a revitalised service that re-establishes the City Archive as a focus for civic pride. .*

*A report, containing an action plan to move things forwards quickly in the new year, will be coming to the Executive on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Rather than bringing a formal report to EMAP, I would propose a workshop on this issue at EMAP on 2<sup>nd</sup> December to discuss to discuss the principles and opportunities so that the discussion can then inform the Executive meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December."*

(v) From Cllr Ayre

"Could the Executive Member update us as to the user numbers at Acomb Library?"

**Reply**

*"Over the 12 months prior to closure for the refit, visitor numbers averaged 180 per day. Over the 8 months since the Library re-opened visits have averaged 428 visits per day.*

*These outstanding figures have been matched by the figures for new members at the library which have more than doubled since the new Acomb Explore Library opened its doors in February, from around 100 per month in 2007 to around 230 a month this year, with over 330 people applying for membership in last August."*

(vi) From Cllr Kirk

"Could the Executive Member update us on plans to hold a Holocaust Memorial Day in York next year?"

**Reply**

*"Holocaust Memorial Day is the international day of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust and the other many genocides that have taken place around the world both before the Holocaust and in the years since.*

*The day will provide a context for looking at our collective past and reflecting on the misery and suffering human beings have brought on each other through hatred of difference. It will provide an opportunity to motivate ourselves not to repeat the crimes of the past.*

*For York next January the theme will be that of Standing up to Hatred. A group, of which I, Cllr Looker and Cllr Crisp are members, has been meeting to develop plans for the central civic ceremony on 27<sup>th</sup> January which will, I hope, include among its participants both young and old, members of all faiths and none, and representatives from refugee groups in York."*

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

One question had been submitted to the Executive Leader and Executive Members under Standing Order 10(c)(i)

The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive a written answer to this question. The question and the written response are set out below:

To the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

"Can the Executive Member inform Council of when she last visited the 'Family Accommodation' at Ordnance Lane and could she comment whether she would be happy to live in the flat(s) herself?"

***Reply:***

*"I visited this accommodation last Friday.*

*If I were facing homelessness, then I would be reconciled to living in this sort of accommodation for a short period of time."*

#### **35. SCRUTINY - REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

A written report was received from Cllr Galvin, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council, on 30 June 2008.

#### **36. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- Local Government Yorkshire & Humberside – meeting in June 2008
- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority – meeting on 18/6/08
- Pension Fund Sub-Committee – meeting on 25/6/08

- North Yorkshire Police Authority – meeting on 30/6/08
- Quality Bus Partnership – meeting on 19/6/08
- Regional Transport Forum – meeting on 19/6/08
- Safer York Partnership – meeting on 10/7/08
- Yorkshire and Humber Assembly – meeting on 26/6/08

No questions had been submitted to representatives on the above bodies.

### **37. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP**

A number of additions to the list of appointments and changes to the membership of committees and outside bodies circulated around the Council Chamber were proposed verbally at the meeting.

These additions have been included on the list attached as Annex 1 to these minutes.

**RESOLVED:** That the appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and Working Groups set out on the revised list circulated at the meeting and the further appointments proposed at the meeting be approved.<sup>1</sup>

Action Required

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Amend membership details on the Committee Management system and internet and send letters to outside body contacts | GR |
|---|----|

Cllr Brian Watson  
 LORD MAYOR OF YORK  
*[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.05 pm]*