



Notice of meeting of

Decision Session - Executive Member for Leisure Culture & Social Inclusion

To: Councillors Ayre (Executive Member)

Date: Wednesday, 27 January 2010

Time: 4.30 pm

Venue: The Guildhall

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Calling In

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item on this agenda, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group by:

10.00 am on Tuesday 26 January if an item is called in before a decision is taken, or

4.00pm on Friday 29 January if an item is called in after a decision has been taken.

Items called in will be considered by the Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by 5.00pm on Monday 25 January 2010.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Public Participation - Decision Session

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak at the meeting can do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Tuesday 26 January 2010.**

Members of the public may register to speak on:-

- an item on the agenda;
- an issue within the Executive Member's remit;
- an item that has been published on the Information Log since the last session. Information reports are listed at the end of the agenda.

3. Investment in Community Facilities £200k (Pages 3 - fund: A Revised Scheme for The Melbourne 10) Centre.

This report asks the Executive Member to agree to allocate the remaining £175k of the £200k Community Facilities fund to take forward a revised scheme to refurbish the Melbourne Centre for community use.

4. Revenue Budget Estimates 2010/11 - Leisure, (Pages 11 - Culture and Social Inclusion 30)

This report presents the 2010/11 budget proposals for Leisure and Culture.

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

Information Reports

No items have appeared on the Information Log since the last meeting.

Democracy Officer:

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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.

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Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

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The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (40 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Decision Session) agenda. The Executive 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 Executive 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

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- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
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Meeting of the Executive Member for Leisure and Culture and Social Inclusion

27 January 2010

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

Investment in Community Facilities £200k fund: A Revised Scheme for The Melbourne Centre**Summary**

1. This report asks the Executive Member to agree to allocate the remaining £175k of the £200k Community Facilities fund to take forward a revised scheme to refurbish the Melbourne Centre for community use.

Background

2. The £200k fund is a Leisure and Culture capital programme scheme, the money coming from part of the proceeds of the sale of the Kent Street coach park site.
3. The Council chose to take allocate the £200k for community facilities in lieu of any developer being required to build a new community facility on the redeveloped Kent Street site. The following criteria were agreed by the Executive for the money:
 - ❖ It should be invested in existing facilities to improve community access and / or the quality of service offered
 - ❖ Facilities must benefit residents in the immediate vicinity of the Barbican
 - ❖ Priority will be given to schemes that benefit those groups most disadvantaged by the loss of facilities on the Barbican site
 - ❖ Preference will be given to schemes that lever in funding from other sources
 - ❖ Investment must be in the form of capital, not revenue
 - ❖ Schemes must be sustainable (there must be no requirement for ongoing funding from the Council)
4. In July 2008 the Executive Member agreed to allocate the money as follows:
 - ❖ £25k for Space 109 to develop the shop next door as space for their community arts centre.
 - ❖ £175k for Accessible Arts and Media as a contribution to a £500k scheme to take forward a refurbishment of the Melbourne Centre. Part funded by the Big Lottery Fund the scheme would make the building more sustainable

and environmentally sound, providing the first community centre to ensure that people with disabilities can use the space in a fully integrated manner

5. The Space 109 scheme has now been implemented and the Council is at the point of paying over the final instalment of the £25k. Unfortunately the Accessible Arts and Media scheme has not been able to move forward. The capital and revenue consequences of the proposed scheme were beginning to impact negatively on the charity and it became necessary for them to withdraw from the scheme. They have subsequently relocated to Burtonstone Community Centre.

Consultation

6. All the community organisation and stakeholders in Guildhall and Fishergate wards were first written to in May 2006 to inform them about this fund and invite them to submit project or investment ideas that would meet these criteria. It was also advertised through the ward committee meetings and newsletters. This process was repeated in February this year. Outline ideas were sought capable of demonstrating:
 - ❖ That the organisation is in support of the idea
 - ❖ That the project is broadly feasible – e.g. any necessary land or other assets are available or can be acquired
 - ❖ Broadly how much it will cost
7. A public meeting was held in May 2008. Five community organisations were represented and there was a round table discussion with local members about the potential ideas. Consideration was given to whether there were any common themes or approaches emerging but the conclusion reached was that the ideas were in fact quite separate. Following the discussion organisations still interested were asked to submit formal proposals in June 2008.
8. Since the demise of the Accessible Arts and Media scheme consultation has taken place with the ward councillors, Fishergate School, Accessible Arts and Media, York CVS, current Melbourne Centre user groups, and a range of potential new community user groups.

Proposal

9. The Melbourne Centre is now effectively empty although Accessible Arts and Media have continued to provide a management service to allow a small number of remaining community groups to continue to use it. A wide range of possible alternative users for the Melbourne Centre have been followed up by officers in consultation with stakeholders. Only one scheme has come forward that appears to be viable. This is from the Blueberry Academy.
10. Under this proposal the Blueberry Academy would take a 15 year lease on the Melbourne centre to provide affordable community facilities for learning, leisure and other community activities. The Blueberry Academy provides personal development for individuals and organisational development for the private, public and third sector with a focus on skills development:

- Andy Bucklee (Director of Learning and Curriculum), has pioneered innovative learning experiences for adults with learning difficulties and is instrumental in the development of Skills for Work initiatives - modernising literacy and numeracy learning to embed skills for the workplace and personal development.
 - Andrew Cambridge (Director), has 15 years experience of supporting adults with learning difficulties and has developed regionally and nationally recognised projects for disabled people and clients with mental health issues.
11. The Blueberry Academy would establish a new not-for-profit organisation to fit the business and community needs of the centre, local community, school, church and the Council. With clear terms of reference this would enable partners to have confidence in the vision for the centre whilst reducing some operational costs (such as rates) and open up new funding channels to help the sustainability of the centre.
 12. The Melbourne Centre has several current user groups who will be accommodated into the new centre management and planning arrangements. The groups will be invited to assist in forming a user group along with new groups using the facilities. The Melbourne centre has also developed a user base of disabled people and accessibility will be incorporated into all future plans and improvement.
 13. Essential work is required to bring the building up to a standard viable for the proposed use. This comprises:
 - ❖ New parking arrangements to ensure the safety of pupils and centre users
 - ❖ Accessible entrance to the Melbourne centre
 - ❖ New heating and electrical system
 - ❖ Asbestos removal
 - ❖ Internal cosmetic improvements to encourage bookings and improve income potential
 14. The business plan will also look towards energy saving and environmentally beneficial solutions to centre operations and for any improvements made to the building and its fixtures. The Blueberry Academy are committed to delivering an ecologically sound operation with all centre proposals adhering to this principle. The team has a vision to take proactive strategic measures to make improvements on social, community and environmental issues.
 15. The centre depends on a successful and sustainable model for paying for efficient day to day operations and building in a strategy for future improvements and depreciation. The centre will look to maximise day, evening and weekend markets and will target a blend of community, voluntary and commercial use. The centre will also look to utilise the 'accessibility' of the centre for use by disabled people and people with mobility issues.

16. Precise targets for centre use have not been agreed, though as an initial monitoring target the centre will aim for approximately equal use between community groups, disability groups and commercial users. Example user groups include:
 - ❖ Community groups: Playgroups, local clubs, etc..
 - ❖ Disability groups: Gateway club, Disability Sports groups, etc..
 - ❖ Commercial users: Adult Education, Sports/leisure, meeting/conference space, etc.
17. This blend of users will make use of different income streams and offers the opportunity for a pricing structure which reflects the needs/finances of the groups. A business plan has been developed to create a staffed centre delivering a service for booking rooms and catering for meetings / conferences, and providing a hub for other community activities / ventures.
18. The sustainability of the business plan is dependent on space hire; it does not rely on any commissioned activity from the Council.
19. The management team is experienced in bringing in new funding to continue and improve service and capacity. It is anticipated that key improvements can be made through accessing external funding, though the operational financial model will not depend on lump sum funding after the initial investment. Examples of future developments for the centre include:
 - Changing rooms to support improved use of outside area
 - ICT technology to support learning and provide a hub for community use
 - Social enterprise activity to create jobs and provide development routes for people in social care
 - Environmentally friendly energy solutions for the centre /school

Options

20. The principal options are:
 - a) Not to proceed with any scheme
 - b) To seek an alternative scheme within the Fishergate / Guildhall Ward
 - c) To proceed with the proposed scheme

Analysis

21. If option a) were taken the building could be returned to its owners, the Methodist Church, with 3 months' notice. There would, however, potentially be a dilapidations cost to the Council of around £30k which would have to be funded. The remainder of the £175k could be reallocated within the Council's capital programme.
22. If option b) were to be pursued there is no immediate likelihood of an alternative, viable scheme coming forward to create community facilities. Previous extensive consultation did not reveal any alternative ideas.

23. Option c) is recommended as providing the most effective way to deliver sustainable community facilities for the Fishergate Ward.

Corporate Priorities

24. This scheme particularly contributes to the Inclusive City aim of improving opportunities for third sector involvement in the shaping, influencing and delivery of services.

Implications

Financial:

25. The Leisure and Culture Capital programme currently has £175k remaining unallocated in the Community Facility budget, in 2010/11.
26. Additional funding would be required to fund the full cost of the required works (see below). This would be funded through prudential borrowing and recharged to the tenant (see below).
27. For the financial year 2009/10 the council will incur a rental charge of £3,000 (£250 a month). In addition the operating costs of the building for the six month period from 1st October 2009 when the council became responsible for the costs are £2,580 (£430 a month), for insurance, utilities and cleaning. The total impact on the LCCS budget for 2009/10 will therefore be £5,580 for which there is currently no budget provision.

Property:

28. The cost of the required works is as follows:

Element		£
Asbestos removal		22,000
Car Park		51,000
Ramp		8,000
Electrical		16,000
Mechanical		35,000
Painting and new entrance		18,000
		150,000
Contingency	7.5%	11,250
		161,250
Prelims	10%	16,125
		177,375
Professional Fees	15.0%	26,606
		203,981

29. This work would be undertaken by the Council. It would be funded using the £175k available plus prudential borrowing to be recharged to the tenant in the form of an increased rent level payable over and above the rent that the Council will pay to the Methodist Church. Assuming prudential borrowing of £30k and assuming the expenditure and therefore the prudential borrowing takes place in 2010/11, there would be an interest only charge in 2010/11 of approximately £700 followed by 15 annual payments of £2,800. These figures are based on the current interest rate of 4.53%, and would be added to the rent payable, making a total annual rent of £5,800 per annum
30. The rent of £3,000 p.a. (less than £1 per sq ft) is a low rental which reflects the current condition of the building. Refurbishment works would also be excluded on review during the 15 year lease term. Thereafter, the value of the refurbishment works (particularly the improvements to the heating and electrical system) could be taken into account. As the rent charged to Blueberry needs to be sustainable in terms of the proposed hire charges to the 'charitable users', there will be no profit rent for the council i.e. the rent charged to Blueberry will be the same as that paid by the council (plus the additional amount to cover the loan). Therefore, the council are not receiving any monetary return on the £175k invested in the refurbishment. However, the council would be ensuring the provision of community facilities in line with its policy on community use of assets.
31. The risk to the council is that if Blueberry is not successful in sustaining the centre, it could serve Notice to terminate and the council would be left with a building which it had no use for and potentially other users which it would need to manage. If that happened, the council would look for another community group to manage the centre which would not only take time but may not necessarily be successful.
32. The head lease between the Methodist Church and the council will be on the following terms:
 - 15 year term
 - Rent - £3,000 p.a.
 - 5 yearly rent reviews
 - 5 yearly break clauses proposed
 - Full Repairing and Insuring
33. The sub-lease between the Council and Blueberry will be on the following terms:
 - 15 years less 1 day
 - Rent - £3,000 p.a. (plus additional amount to cover the loan)
 - 5 yearly rent reviews
 - Contracted out of security of tenure provisions
 - Annual break clauses on Blueberry giving 6 month's Notice
 - Full repairing and insuring

- Use – in line with other community assets and allow for public use but also allow income to be generated to ensure the viability of the centre

34. There are no human resources, legal, equalities, crime and disorder, or IT implications.

Risk Management

35. There will be an acceptable level of risk with regular monitoring of the capital project and an appropriate lease in place.

Recommendations

36. The Executive Member is asked to:
- a. agree to £175k being allocated to fund works on the Melbourne Centre subject to fulfilment of the conditions set out in paragraph 33
 - b. recommend the required prudential borrowing to the Council's Executive

Reason: To provide excellent community facilities in the vicinity of the Barbican in line with the Council's approved Leisure Facilities Strategy.

Contact Details

Authors:

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Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

Chief Officer responsible for the report:

Charlie Croft
Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

Report Approved ✓ **Date** 18.1.10.

Specialist Implications Officers:

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Ext. 4573

Philip Callow
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Ext. 3360

Wards Affected: Fishergate, Guildhall

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Leisure Facilities Update: Report to the Executive of 2 May 2006.

Investment in Community Facilities: £200k fund: Report to the Executive Member for Leisure and Culture and Advisory Panel of 15 July 2008

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Executive Member for Leisure & Culture**27 January 2010**

Joint report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services and the Director of Resources

REVENUE BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2010/11**Purpose of Report**

- 1 This report presents the 2010/11 budget proposals for Leisure & Culture. It includes:
 - The revenue budget for 2009/10 (Annex 1) to show the original budgets.
 - The base budget for 2010/11 including the 2009/10 budget rolled forward and adjusted.
 - The cost of pay and price increases, increments and settlement of pay and grading appeals for the portfolio.
 - Budget service pressure costs and savings proposals for the portfolio area (Annexes 2 and 3).
 - Fees and Charges proposals (Annex 4).
- 2 Budget Council will be held on 25 February 2010 and will make decisions on the overall budget for the council. In order to facilitate the decision making process the Executive are meeting on 16 February 2010 to consider the preferences identified by the individual portfolio Executive Members and the results of the consultation exercise.
- 3 The Executive Member is therefore asked to consider the budget proposals included in this report and identify their preferences, including the proposals in Annexes 2 and 3 that will be considered by the Executive as part of the intended budget. The Executive Member is invited to provide comments on the budget proposals in this report.

Background

- 4 The council's 2010/11 budget is being developed within the constraints of an extremely challenging financial climate. An extensive transformational programme has begun which will promote efficient delivery of services whilst at the same time ensuring funding is available for investment in key areas across the council.
- 5 The 2009/10 revenue budget monitoring process has identified areas of activity that currently have insufficient capacity to deal with the increased demands on those services. In addition consideration has been given to the council's top priorities, and the need to ensure that key front line areas of activity, particularly those in respect of adults and children, can continue to be provided. From this analysis, specific areas

of investment will be proposed within the councils 2010/11 budget, in particular within the following areas:

- Adult Social Care
- Children's Social Care
- Waste Management

- 6 The proposed budget for 2010/11 reflects the need to direct investment into these areas in order that planning and monitoring of service delivery and improvement can take place against an adequate resourcing platform.
- 7 In addition, the council recognises that adequate provision needs to be created within the budget to ensure that the continuing financial impact of the economic downturn can be contained effectively. Following detailed review of economic pressures both on front line services and the council's Treasury Management function, it is proposed that in the region of £3m will be set aside within the budget to contain the impact of these pressures.
- 8 In order to create the financial capacity to enable adequate investment in these priority areas, the budget strategy has been based around certain key financial management principles. A fundamental maxim of the strategy is that directorates have been made clearly responsible for the robust and effective self-management of their existing financial resources, and that restraint has been expected in putting forward for additional growth in budget to be funded corporately
- 9 Directorates have been expected to contain their net expenditure within clearly defined and strictly enforced cash limits with a clear expectation that directorates self manage all non-exceptional budget pressures within this cash limit. These pressures include the anticipated cost of the pay award and any incremental increases due in year. Explicitly linked to self-management within defined cash limits has been the requirement for directorates to demonstrate the re-allocation of budgets in order to contain internal financial pressures.
- 10 As part of the development of the budget, the council's transformation programme has also been robustly reviewed in view of the need to create capacity to invest in priority areas. A realistic acceleration of efficiency savings will be included within the corporate budget proposals in order to ensure that the additional financial capacity introduced in this budget is based around a challenging but realistic approach to driving out efficiency savings across the organisation. However, it must be stressed that achievement of these efficiencies will not be easy to deliver, but they are essential in order to deliver investment into priority areas. The scale and pace of the transformation process in coming years will be critical to the council maintaining financial stability. In addition, clearly with the future pressures on public spending, combined with known forecast increased pressures in children's care, adult care and waste management, the council will face the need to both achieve significant transformational change, and review the overall type and level of service provision in coming years.
- 11 In particular, the Executive Member will be aware of significant pressures within Leisure Fees & Charges and Grant Income budgets. It is however recognised that reviews of service activity need to take place in order to develop and implement mitigation plans that will constrain the impact of these financial pressures.

- 12 The Director of Resources' report '2010/11 Budget Strategy and Medium Term Financial Planning 2011/12 to 2013/14' was adopted by the Executive on 15 December 2009. This paper is the result of ongoing work against this agreed framework.

Local Government Finance Settlement

- 13 The Local Government Finance settlement for 2008/09 also included indicative figures for 2010/11 that enabled the council to consider future budget issues. The provisional settlement for 2010/11 gives an increase in formula grant of £1.090m (+2.51%).

Budget Proposals for Leisure & Culture

- 14 A summary of the budget proposals is shown in table 1 below. Further details on individual elements are presented in the subsequent paragraphs.

Table 1: Proposed Leisure & Culture Budget 2010/11	Para Ref	£000
2009/10 Original Budget (see Annex 1)		9,240
2009/10 In Year Recurring Amendments:		
Post Transferred from Marketing & Communications		+ 34
Pay Award Budget Allocation		+ 55
One-Off Growth Included in 2009/10 Budget:		
Archive Additional Staffing		- 32
Archive Development Fund		- 30
Barbican Interim Funding		- 120
Edmund Wilson Gym		- 33
Oaklands Sports Centre Temporary Closure		- 15
2010/11 Base Budget	15	9,098
Provision for Pay Increases	16	+ 229
Provision for Price Increases	17	+ 76
Fees & Charges Increase	18	- 30
Service Pressure Proposals (Annex 2)	19-21	+ 282
Savings Proposals (Annex 3)	22-24	- 310
2010/11 Total Proposed Budget		9,345

2010/11 Base Budget (£9,098k)

- 15 This represents the latest 2009/10 budget approved by and reported to Members, updated for the full year effect of decisions taken in the 2009/10 budget and amendments during 2009/10, e.g. supplementary estimates.

Provisional Pay Increases (+ £229k)

- 16 These calculations are based on a pay increase for Local Government staff of 1.0% (from 1 April 2010) and Teaching staff of 2.3% (from 1 September 2010) at a cost of £46k. The teaching staff increase has already been agreed but negotiations for the 2010/11 Local Government settlement have not yet started, although there is

pressure from the Treasury that increases are kept to a minimal level. In addition, growth of £125k is included for the net costs of staff increments after allowing for new starters at the lower point of the grade, and £58k for the estimated cost of successful pay & grading appeals.

Provisional Price Inflation (+ £76k)

- 17 The budget proposes that, due to the underlying low rate of inflation, there is a general price freeze on most budgets. The amount allowed for price inflation is to fund known price increases, e.g. contract payments, and is net of any inflationary allowance included in on-going grants supporting core services.

Fees & Charges and Traded Services (- £30k)

- 18 The budget proposes that most Fees & Charges are increased by 2.5%, except where there are nationally set charges. These are then rounded up or down as appropriate to create sensible figures. The majority of internal services that trade with schools are also increasing their charges by 2.5%. Where increases in charges (external or school traded services) are proposed in excess of 2.5% the additional income is either reflected in the savings totals offered or being used to address existing budget shortfalls. A full schedule of all proposed fees and charges is shown at Annex 4.

Service Pressure Proposals (+ £282k)

- 19 A range of options for service pressure proposals has been considered and in view of the overall available resources it is proposed that only those proposals shown in Annex 2 are included as the preferred options for Leisure & Culture. The proposals put forward are the result of a rigorous assessment process, which included looking at the risk to customers, schools and staff, legislative requirements, proven customer demand and the council's corporate objectives.
- 20 Members should note that even if all of the items identified at Annex 2 are funded the directorate will still need to manage some significant budget pressures in 2010/11, in particular:
- Library Service income, where there has been a significant downturn in income generated from audio visual rental in recent years and the current financial climate appears to be being felt.
 - Sourcing replacement funding for a number of grant streams that are ceasing and that currently support activities and staffing within the Sports & Active Leisure Service.
- 21 The Executive will decide on 16 February 2010 whether or not to set a general contingency to provide possible funding for such items for 2010/11.

Savings Proposals (- £310k)

- 22 Members will be aware that the 2009/10 budget savings were significant, and that all directorates are operating within a tight financial environment. The council has also engaged in an efficiency programme, More For York, which had an initial target of generating £15m of budget savings over three years. In addition to those savings

included in the efficiency programme directorates have looked at other areas within their control.

- 23 In seeking to achieve savings for the 2010/11 budget, directorates have examined budgets with a view to identifying savings that have a minimum impact on the services provided to the public, schools, customers and the wider council, and are not already included in the blueprints for More For York. They have therefore concentrated on initiatives that:
- Reflect directorate priorities and plans;
 - Improve quality and efficiency;
 - Take advantage of ongoing service and/or Best Value reviews;
 - Generate income;
 - Address budgetary underspends;
 - Improve cash flow and interest earnings;
 - Generate savings from the technical and financial administration functions of the council.
- 24 Annex 3 shows the full list of savings proposals for Leisure & Culture.

Consultation

- 25 This paper forms part of the council's budget consultation. The other streams being undertaken include a public consultation leaflet circulated city wide (results should be known prior to the meeting of the Executive), a public meeting where participants debated savings and growth proposals attended by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, and a further session with the business communities of the city. The budget proposals have been discussed with affected key staff and in meetings with Trade Union representatives.

Options

- 26 As part of the consultation process the Executive Member is asked for their comments or alternative suggestions on the proposals shown in Annexes 2, 3 and 4.

Analysis

- 27 All the analysis is provided in the body of the report and the annexes.

Corporate Priorities

- 28 The budget represents the opportunity to reprioritise resources towards corporate priority areas. In formulating savings and growth proposals the directorate has paid particular attention to the impact that each proposal will have on the delivery of corporate priorities.

Implications

- 29 The implications are:
- Financial - The financial implications are dealt with in the body of the report.

- Human Resources - Implications are identified against each of the individual savings and service pressure proposals listed in annexes 2 and 3 where appropriate. In summary though, the savings proposed in Annex 3 equate to the loss of 2 fte posts. In addition some proposals may lead to reduced hours or changes to patterns of work. Where requested HR has been involved in the development of the budget proposals and has worked with local managers to identify the HR implications of the proposals. HR implications will be managed in accordance with established council change management procedures.
- Equalities - An equalities impact assessment has been carried out for the items included within the proposed budget. The results of this assessment have been used in the prioritisation of both the savings and the growth proposals.
- Legal - There are no legal implications to this report.
- Crime and Disorder - There are no specific crime and disorder implications to this report.
- Information Technology - There are no information technology implications to this report.
- Property - There are no property implications to this report.

Risk Management

- 30 Key reporting mechanisms to Members on budget matters will continue to be through mid-year monitoring reports and the final Revenue Outturn report for the year. The format and timing of these reports has recently been considered by the council's Corporate Management Team but as a minimum they will report on forecast out-turn compared to budgets and will also address the progress made on investments and savings included within the budgets.
- 31 The budget setting process always entails a degree of risk as managers attempt to assess known and uncertain future events. This year has demonstrated the difficulty of achieving this. As with any budget the key to mitigating risk is prompt monitoring and appropriate management control. As such updated figures and revised corrective actions will be monitored via Directorate Management Teams, Corporate Management Team and the monitor reports during the year.

Recommendations

- 32 The Executive Member is invited to consider whether the budget proposals are in line with the council's priorities.
- 33 The Executive Member is asked to consider the budget proposals which have been prepared by Officers for Leisure & Culture for 2010/11 contained in this report and listed below, and provide comments to be submitted to the Budget Executive on 16 February 2010.
- 2010/11 Base Budget as set out in paragraphs 14 to 17
 - Service Pressure Proposals as set out in Annex 2
 - Savings Proposals as set out in Annex 3
 - Fees and Charges as set out in Annex 4

Reason: As part of the consultation on the Leisure & Culture budget for 2010/11.

Contact Details Author:	Chief Officers Responsible for the Report:		
Richard Hartle Head of Finance 01904 554225 richard.hartle@york.gov.uk	Pete Dwyer Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services 01904 554200 Ian Floyd Director of Resources 01904 551100		
	Report Approved	√	Date 19 January 2010
Specialist Implications Officer: Mark Bennett, LCCS HR Manager, Tel: 01904 554518			
Wards Affected:	All	√	
For further information please contact the author of the report			

- Annex 1 - 2009/10 Original Budgets**
- Annex 2 - Service Pressure Proposals**
- Annex 3 - Savings Proposals**
- Annex 4 - Fees & Charges Schedules**

Background Papers

2010/11 Budget Files

Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement - December 2007

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LEARNING, CULTURE AND CHILDREN'S SERVICESSERVICE PLANLEISURE, CULTURE & SOCIAL INCLUSION - LIFELONG LEARNING & CULTUREDETAILED EXPENDITURE

**2009/10
BUDGET
£'000**

Employees	4,634
Premises	2,017
Transport	60
Supplies & Services	3,525
Miscellaneous	
- Recharges	2,191
Capital Financing	1,203

GROSS EXPENDITURE**13,629**

Income (4,389)

NET EXPENDITURE**9,240**COST CENTRE EXPENDITURE

**2009/10
BUDGET
£'000**

Art & Culture	848
Libraries & Heritage	4,968
Parks & Open Spaces	1,268
Sport & Active Leisure	2,157
Leisure Support Services	-

NET EXPENDITURE**9,240**

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Leisure & Culture - Service Pressure Proposals - 2010/11

Brief Description	Net Cost	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>LIFELONG LEARNING & CULTURE</u>		
<u>Libraries & Heritage</u>		
<u>LG01 - Archives Manager</u> The post was created in 2009/10 but funding was only provided on a one-off basis. This item is matched against the savings generated through the library service restructure (LS05).	32	32
<u>LG02 - Library Service Self Issue Machines</u> The additional cost of annual prudential borrowing repayments to finance the purchase of self issue machines. This item is matched against the savings generated through the library service restructure (LS05).	35	35
<u>LG03 - Library Service Grant Income</u> Reduction in grant income received by the service. This item is matched against the savings generated through the library service restructure (LS05).	32	32
<u>Sport & Active Leisure</u>		
<u>LG04 - Barbican Centre Interim Funding</u> The additional funding required to maintain the centre in its current mothballed state and complete the current tendering exercise, which aims to reopen the centre.	120	120
<u>LG05 - External Grant Funding Reductions</u> The loss of grant funding from LPSA2 for the Physical Activity Co-ordinators and Sport England for the Physical Disability Coach, plus the part year loss of Sport England Grant for the Community Sports Coach and Aquatics Coach. In 2011/12 the full effect of the Community Sports Coach and Aquatics Coaches grant losses will be felt. The growth pressure has been reduced by an assumption that new external funding of £20k can be secured.	63	79

Recurring Pressures Total	282	298
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One-off Pressures Total		
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Leisure & Culture - Savings Proposals - 2010/11

	Net Saving	
	2010/11 £000	On-going £000
<u>DIRECTORATE WIDE SAVINGS</u>		
<u>LS01 - Staff Vacancy Factor</u> Increase the vacancy factor on non-frontline staffing budgets by 1.0% (from the current 4.0% up to 5.0%)	19	19
<u>LS02 - Reduction In Office Budgets</u> A cut in all directorate general office expenses, equipment, travel and subsistence budgets by 5%.	8	8
<u>LIFELONG LEARNING & CULTURE</u>		
<u>Arts & Culture</u>		
<u>LS03 - Arts Service Level Agreements Reductions</u> The annual agreements with Pilot Theatre, York Guildhall Orchestra, Yorkshire Film Archive, and the Late Music Festival would not be renewed in 2010/11.	7	7
<u>LS04 - Cease Funding The Community Arts Service</u> The Community Arts service will cease with 2 fte redundancies. Officer capacity will remain to support community arts groups with advice, and to seek external funding for community projects.	67	67
<u>Libraries & Heritage</u>		
<u>LS05 - Library Service Staffing Restructure</u> The revised structure agreed at the Leisure & Culture Executive Member Decision Making Meeting on 12 January 2010 generates a significant saving. This is being reinvested within the service through the linked growth proposals LG01, LG02 & LG03.	99	99
<u>LS06 - York Explore Income Target</u> The new facilities within the York Explore Library will open up increased opportunities for income generation. In the first instance any additional income will be used to reduce the current library service income deficit, with any interim shortfall against the target being funded by a reduction in the bookstock budget.	80	80
<u>Parks & Open Spaces</u>		
<u>LS07 - Micklegate Stray Income</u> Additional income from smaller commercial & property rents.	26	20
<u>LS08 - Reduce Events & Animation Budget</u> A saving in the budget available to support events and activities within the	2	2
<u>LS09 - Cease Funding Bowling Facilities Outside Of The Main Parks & Gardens</u> Remove maintenance support from self-managed bowling greens and croquet facilities at Scarcroft Green and the Retreat. This will lead to a saving in staff time in 2011.	2	15
Recurring Savings Total	310	317
One-off Savings Total	0	0

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LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO - FEES AND CHARGES 2010/11

PARKS, STRAYS & ALLOTMENTS	CURRENT CHARGE 2009/10	PLUS 2.5% INCREASE	PROPOSED CHARGE 2010/11	PROPOSED PERCENTAGE INCREASE
	£	£	£	%
PITCHES COURTS & BOWLS				
Tennis (per court per hour, not per person)				
Adult	5.50	5.64	6.00	9.09%
Concession	3.00	3.08	3.00	0.00%
Bowls (including reservation fee and woods)				
Adult per hour	2.20	2.26	2.50	13.64%
Concession per hour	1.50	1.54	1.50	0.00%
Season tickets - adults	66.00	67.65	67.50	2.27%
Season tickets - concessions	35.00	35.88	36.00	2.86%
Pitches				
Per season	145.00	148.63	149.00	2.76%
Initial mark)			
Overmark) Charged			
Removal of goal posts) at			
Per Season plus Initial Mark) cost			
Per Season plus Initial Mark plus two Overmarks)			
Other Lettings				
Caravans per day	} Charges			
Tents per day	} to be			
Circus and Fairs - per day on site (non-animal)	} set at			
Hot air balloons - per year	} officers			
Hot air balloons - per launch	} discretion			
ALLOTMENTS				
Plot Size A (0-75 Sq Yards)				
Full Rent	15.00	15.38	15.38	2.53%
Concession	9.00	9.23	9.23	2.56%
Plot Size B (75-150 Sq Yards)				
Full Rent	30.00	30.75	30.75	2.50%
Concession	18.00	18.45	18.45	2.50%
Plot Size C (150-300 Sq Yards)				
Full Rent	60.00	61.50	61.50	2.50%
Concession	36.00	36.90	36.90	2.50%
Plot Size D (300-450 Sq Yards)				
Full Rent	80.00	82.00	82.00	2.50%
Concession	48.00	49.20	49.20	2.50%

LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO - FEES AND CHARGES 2010/11

	CHARGE 2009/10	2.5% Increase	PROPOSED CHARGE 2010/11	PROPOSED PERCENTAGE INCREASE
LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	£			%
AUDIO VISUAL				
Annual Subscription	18.00	18.45	19.00	5.56%
Annual Subscription 12-17				
COMPACT DISCS				
Personal Subscribers				
Loan Charge per title (1 Week)	0.50	0.51	0.50	0.00%
Occasional Users				
Loan Charge per title (1 Week)	1.00	1.03	1.00	0.00%
DVDS - Occasional Users				
New Films added to stock (Price Band A) - 3 day loan	2.50	2.56	2.60	4.00%
Older Films/Operas/Plays/Classics (Price Band B) - 1 week loan	2.50	2.56	2.60	4.00%
DVDS - Personal Subscribers				
New Films added to stock (Price Band A) - 3 days loan	1.50	1.54	1.60	6.67%
Older Films/Operas/Plays/Classics (Price Band B) - 1 week loan	1.50	1.54	1.60	6.67%
FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION				
Transmit First Page				
UK Charge Band 1	1.50	1.54	1.60	6.67%
BT Chargebands 2 Europe	2.50	2.56	2.60	4.00%
BT Chargebands 3-5	2.50	2.56	2.60	4.00%
Transmit Other Pages (each)				
UK Charge Band 1	1.50	1.54	1.60	6.67%
BT Chargebands 2 Europe	2.50	2.56	2.60	4.00%
BT Chargebands 3-5	2.50	2.56	2.60	4.00%
Receive				
UK Charge Band 1	2.00	2.05	2.10	5.00%
BT Chargebands 2 Europe	2.00	2.05	2.10	5.00%
BT Chargebands 3-5	2.00	2.05	2.10	5.00%
INTERNET COSTS				
Residents one hour per day free			additional hours at £1 per hour	
Non residents	£1 per half hour		£1 per half hour	
LANGUAGE COURSES				
Short Courses				
Per 3 Week Loan Period Per Title	Free		Free	
Standard Course				
Per 12 Week Loan Period	Free		Free	
LOST & DAMAGED STOCK				
Lost Tickets	Free		Free	
Minimum Charge For Books Out Of Print				
Adult Non Fiction - Hardback	21.50	22.04	23.00	6.98%
Adult Non Fiction - Paperback	12.50	12.81	12.50	0.00%
Adult Fiction - Hardback	16.50	16.91	18.00	9.09%
Adult Fiction - Paperback	8.50	8.71	8.50	0.00%
Junior Stock - Fiction Hardback	8.50	8.71	0.00	N/A
Junior Stock - Fiction Paperback	5.50	5.64	0.00	N/A
Junior Stock - non Fiction Hardback	10.50	10.76	0.00	N/A
Junior Stock -non fiction Paperback	6.50	6.66	0.00	N/A
Children's fiction		N/A	6.00	N/A
Children's non fiction		N/A	11.00	N/A

LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO - FEES AND CHARGES 2010/11

	CHARGE 2009/10 £	2.5% Increase	PROPOSED CHARGE 2010/11	PROPOSED PERCENTAGE INCREASE %
LIBRARIES & HERITAGE				
Audio Visual Stock Minimum Charge				
Compact Discs - single	8.00	8.20	8.00	0.00%
Compact Discs - double	12.00	12.30	12.00	0.00%
Covers/Cases	free		Free	
Language course				
DVDs	8.00	8.20	8.00	0.00%
OVERDUE CHARGES				
Books, audiobooks and language courses - Adult Rates				
1 Day	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.00%
	Then 15p per day to max of £10		Then 15p per day to max of £10	
Books, audiobooks and language courses - Young People' rate (12-17 yrs)				
1 Day	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.00%
	Then 5p per day to a max of £2.50		Then 5p per day to a max of £2.50	
Audio-Visual Items				
Videos and DVDs	Weekly charge re-payable on items overdue (per week or part week) as shown above			
RESERVATION CHARGES				
Per Requests From Outside York Stock				
Adult	5.00	5.13	6.00	20.00%
Over 60s/Unemployed/Disabled	5.00	5.13	0.00	-100.00%
PHOTOCOPYING				
Monochrome Copiers				
A4 sheet	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.00%
A3 sheet	0.20	0.21	0.20	0.00%
Microfilm/microfiche copies A4	0.50	0.51	0.50	0.00%
Microfilm/microfiche copies A3			0.70	
Colour A4 (NEW)	0.50	0.51	0.50	0.00%
Colour A3 (NEW)	1.00	1.03	1.00	0.00%
Staff assisted photocopying	0.05 additional on each charge		0.10 additional on each charge	
COMPUTER PRINTS				
Black & White Prints	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.00%
Colour Prints	0.50	0.51	0.60	20.00%
Photo Quality Paper Prints	1.00	1.03	1.20	20.00%
IT CONSUMABLES				
USB Memory Sticks	7.00	7.18	4.00	-42.86%
Disc refinisher - per disc	2.50	2.56	0.00	-100.00%
HIRE OF ROOMS				
Explore York Library Learning Centre				
Marriott Room				
Profit-making Organisations Per Hour	45.00	46.13	50.00	11.11%
Profit-making Organisations Per Day - 7 hours - 9-4 , 10-5	315.00	322.88	330.00	4.76%
Profit making organisations per evening - 5.30 - 7.30	150.00	153.75	100.00	-33.33%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per Hour	25.00	25.63	30.00	20.00%
Non profit making organisations per day	175.00	179.38	190.00	8.57%
Non profit making organisations per evening	75.00	76.88	60.00	-20.00%
Technology pack per day - (laptop, digital projector)	25.00	25.63	30.00	20.00%
Garden Room - 40 theatre style, 25 boardroom				
Profit-making Organisations Per Hour	30.00	30.75	40.00	33.33%
Profit-making Organisations Per Day	210.00	215.25	260.00	23.81%
Profit making organisations per evening	75.00	76.88	80.00	6.67%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per Hour	20.00	20.50	25.00	25.00%
Non profit making organisations per day	140.00	143.50	155.00	10.71%
Non profit making organisations per evening	50.00	51.25	50.00	0.00%
Blue Room - 20 theatre style, 15 boardroom				
Profit-making Organisations Per Hour	25.00	25.63	30.00	20.00%
Profit-making Organisations Per Day	175.00	179.38	190.00	8.57%
Profit making organisations per evening	65.00	66.63	60.00	-7.69%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per Hour	15.00	15.38	20.00	33.33%
Non profit making organisations per day	105.00	107.63	120.00	14.29%

LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO - FEES AND CHARGES 2010/11

	CHARGE 2009/10	2.5% Increase	PROPOSED CHARGE 2010/11	PROPOSED PERCENTAGE INCREASE
LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	£			%
Non profit making organisations per evening	30.00	30.75	40.00	33.33%
Flexible Learning Centres - Acomb, Tang Hall, Clifton & York - incl.IT support				
Profit-making Organisations Per day	500.00	512.50	600.00	20.00%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per day	250.00	256.25	300.00	20.00%
Meeting Room at Tang Hall Library				
Profit-making Organisations Per Hour	15.00	15.38	20.00	33.33%
profit making organisations per day	105.00	107.63	120.00	14.29%
Profit making organisations per evening	60.00	61.50	40.00	-33.33%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per Hour	10.00	10.25	15.00	50.00%
Non profit making organisations per day	70.00	71.75	85.00	21.43%
Non profit making organisations per evening	50.00	51.25	30.00	-40.00%
Explore Acomb Library Learning Centre				
Room 1 - 30 People				
Profit-making Organisations Per Hour	30.00	30.75	40.00	33.33%
Profit-making Organisations Per Day	210.00	215.25	260.00	23.81%
Profit making organisations per evening 5.30 - 8.30	75.00	76.88	120.00	60.00%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per Hour	20.00	20.50	25.00	25.00%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per day	140.00	143.50	155.00	10.71%
Non profit making organisations per evening	50.00	51.25	75.00	50.00%
Room 2 - 12 People				
Profit-making Organisations Per Hour	15.00	15.38	20.00	33.33%
Profit-making Organisations Per Day	105.00	107.63	120.00	14.29%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per Hour	10.00	10.25	15.00	50.00%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per day	70.00	71.75	85.00	21.43%
Room 4 - 20 People				
Profit-making Organisations Per Hour	25.00	25.63	30.00	20.00%
Profit-making Organisations Per Day	175.00	179.38	190.00	8.57%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per Hour	15.00	15.38	20.00	33.33%
Non-Profit Making Organisations Per day	105.00	107.63	120.00	14.29%
Whole Building - Wednesdays	400.00	410.00	600.00	50.00%
INFORMATION SERVICES				
Extended research per 15 mins with the first 15mins free	20.50	21.01	5.50	-73.17%
TIFF images saved on disk (per image)	5.10	5.23	5.25	2.94%
Reproduction right fees (for someone to use an item outside of 'fairdealing' in addition to reproduction fee)				
For use in educational products, text books				
User in UK, CYC holds copyright on item	11.75	12.04	12.35	5.11%
User in UK, CYC does not hold copyright on item	3.50	3.59	3.65	4.29%
User outside UK, CYC holds copyright on item	26.70	27.37	28.00	4.87%
User outside UK, CYC does not hold copyright on item	19.10	19.58	20.00	4.71%
For use in books, journals, periodicals, documentaries				
User in UK, CYC holds copyright on item	19.10	19.58	20.00	4.71%
User in UK, CYC does not hold copyright on item	26.70	27.37	28.00	4.87%
User outside UK, CYC holds copyright on item	30.10	30.85	31.60	4.98%
User outside UK, CYC does not hold copyright on item	7.00	7.18	7.35	5.00%
Imagine York Images , CYC holds copyright (may be waived for small print run,	82.00	84.05	84.00	2.44%
For use in commercial promotions, advertising, entertainment				
User in UK, CYC holds copyright on item	30.10	30.85	31.60	4.98%
User in UK, CYC does not hold copyright on item	7.00	7.18	7.35	5.00%
User outside UK, CYC holds copyright on item	60.00	61.50	63.00	5.00%
User outside UK, CYC does not hold copyright on item	10.25	10.51	10.75	4.88%
Imagine York Images where CYC holds copyright	82.00	84.05	86.00	4.88%

LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO - FEES CHARGES 2010/11

			0.025			
Sports	Price Type	CURRENT CHARGE 2009/10	PLUS 2.5% INCREASE	PROPOSED CHARGE 2010/11	PROPOSED PERCENTAGE INCREASE	% discount with york card
		£	£	£	%	
Swimming						
Open, Lane, Adult,	Adult	4.10	4.20	4.20	2.44%	
Deep End, Women	Adult YorkCARD	3.25	3.33	3.35	3.08%	20.24%
Waterfun & 50+	Concession	2.90	2.97	2.90	0.00%	
Swim sessions	Conc YorkCARD	2.10	2.15	2.20	4.76%	24.14%
Under 5 policy	Kids go free					
Family Saver	2 adults 2 kids	8.50	8.71	8.75	2.94%	
Family Sav. Plus	1 adult 2 kids	5.95	6.10	6.10	2.52%	
Swim lessons	Kids 30 mins	4.40	4.51	4.50	2.27%	
	Kids 45 mins	5.65	5.79	5.80	2.65%	
	Adults 30 mins	4.40	4.51	4.50	2.27%	
	Adults 40 mins	5.65	5.79	5.80	2.65%	
	60 mins	5.85	6.00	6.00	2.56%	
	1:1 course of 5	82.00	84.05	84.00	2.44%	
	1:1 individual	18.45	18.91	18.95	2.71%	
Aquafit & Aquanatal	Adult	5.00	5.13	5.15	3.00%	
	Adult YorkCARD	4.00	4.10	4.10	2.50%	20.39%
	Concession	3.95	4.05	4.10	3.80%	
	Conc YorkCARD	3.15	3.23	3.25	3.17%	20.73%
Loyalty Swim Card	Adult	32.80	33.62	33.60	2.44%	
	Adult YorkCARD	25.85	26.50	26.80	3.68%	20.24%
	Concession	23.00	23.58	23.20	0.87%	
	Conc YorkCARD	16.80	17.22	17.60	4.76%	24.14%
Canoe Course	4 day	36.60	37.52	37.55	2.60%	
Sub Aqua Course	5 day	45.75	46.89	46.90	2.51%	
NEW POOL HIRE RATES WHICH INCLUDE 2 LIFEGUARDS AS STANDARD						
Whole Pool Hire	ex-vat 1 hour	80.85	82.87	82.90	2.54%	
(Incl. lifeguards)	1 hour	95.00	97.38	97.40	2.53%	
	ex-vat half hour	40.42	41.43	41.45	2.55%	
	Half hour	47.50	48.69	48.70	2.53%	
1/2 Pool Hire	ex-vat 1 hour	40.85	41.87	41.90	2.57%	
(Incl. lifeguards)	1 hour	48.00	49.20	49.20	2.50%	
	ex-vat half hour	20.43	20.94	20.95	2.55%	
	Half hour	24.00	24.60	24.60	2.50%	
Lane Hire (Pool)	ex-vat 1 hour	25.96	26.61	26.60	2.47%	
	1 hour	30.50	31.26	31.25	2.46%	
	ex-vat half hour	12.98	13.30	13.30	2.47%	
	Half hour	15.25	15.63	15.65	2.62%	
SCHOOL POOL HIRE RATES WHICH INCLUDE 2 LIFEGUARDS & 2 TEACHERS AS STANDARD (based on 10 wks)						
School Pool Hire	1/2 hr Per term	582.20	596.76	616.50	5.89%	
NEW SCHOOL POOL HIRE RATES WHICH INCLUDE 2 LIFEGUARDS AS STANDARD (based on 10 wks)						
School Pool Hire	1/2 hr Per term	395.00	404.88	405.00	2.53%	
Swim Teacher Hire	ex-vat 1/2 hr	8.00	8.20	8.20	2.50%	
Swim Teacher Hire	ex-vat 1 hr	15.95	16.35	16.40	2.82%	
Lifeguard	ex-vat 1/2 hr	4.60	4.72	4.75	3.26%	
Lifeguard	ex-vat 1 hr	9.20	9.43	9.50	3.26%	
Birthday Parties	Energise -Large pool	93.00	95.33	95.35	2.53%	
	Energise -Small pool	46.00	47.15	47.15	2.50%	
	YSP - Pool	135.00	138.38	138.20	2.37%	
	YSP - Inflatable	250.00		250.00	0.00%	
Dry Side						
BeActive	12 mth contract DD	31.00	31.78	32.00	3.23%	

LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO - FEES CHARGES 2010/11

Sports	Price Type	CURRENT CHARGE 2009/10	PLUS 2.5% INCREASE	PROPOSED CHARGE 2010/11	PROPOSED PERCENTAGE INCREASE	% discount with york card
	12 mth upfront payment	372.00	381.30	384.00	3.23%	
	3 mth contract DD	36.00	36.90	37.00	2.78%	
	Corp/student mth	26.00	26.65	27.00	3.85%	
Casual prices	Adult	5.40	5.54	5.55	2.78%	
	Adult YorkCARD	4.30	4.41	4.40	2.33%	20.72%
	Concession	4.10	4.20	4.10	0.00%	
	Conc YorkCARD	3.15	3.23	3.25	3.17%	20.73%
Group Introduction		18.00	18.45	18.50	2.78%	
Creche		1.05	1.08	1.10	4.76%	

Decision Session – Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion

Wednesday 27 January 2010

Annex of Additional Comments received from Members and members of the public since the agenda was published

Agenda Item 4 – Revenue Budget Estimates 2010-11

Received from:	Comments
<p>Sue Grayson Ford Director, The Campaign for Drawing</p>	<p>I write on behalf of The Campaign for Drawing, an external organisation which runs a well-known national initiative, The Big Draw.</p> <p>Arts Action York, has been one of our most consistently excellent partners over the last five years, running exemplary events and activities for the people of York.</p> <p>We have awarded them our annual Drawing Inspiration Award more than once. This is a fiercely competitive Award, and winning it on more than one occasion places Arts Action York in an unique category - demonstrating the team's dedication, innovative ideas and good practice in delivering them. We have published documentation of their work as case studies to inspire other local authorities and heritage educators.</p> <p>Therefore, we are shocked that their posts are currently at risk and must protest at the wastefulness of cuts of this kind. If the City of York Council proceeds with its plans, it will negate Arts Action's enormous contribution to improving social cohesion and access to culture and creativity. These are ideals which all political parties are now espousing, so it appears a backward step to curtail this cost-effective programme, which has involved all parts of the city and all sectors of its residents.</p> <p>We very much hope that the City of York Council will reconsider these budgetary measures, and retain its reputation for supporting far-reaching and pioneering community arts programmes. Please keep me informed of the outcome of these policy discussions.</p>
<p>Emily Harvey, Freelance Artist</p>	<p>Why should City of York Council support Community arts?</p> <p>Community arts engages the most marginalised residents in York, giving a unique opportunity for people to have a voice and participate more fully in civic and cultural life.</p> <p>The existing well planned city-wide creative arts programme contributes to democracy, equality and safer more vibrant community life in York. These are not optional extras to be dispensed with in hard times, but things which form the core of our well being, particularly when dealing with issues like</p>

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	<p>unemployment, debt and fragile mental health.</p> <p>Since the inception of Arts Action York the Community Arts Team has initiated long term projects with communities throughout the city that increase confidence and quality of life. People of all ages and abilities in York Hospital, Children’s Centres, old peoples residential homes, homeless shelters, psychiatric care, Cancer Centre, travellers sites, respite care, pupil referral units, day and community centres, not to mention professional artists, have all contributed to a richer and more diverse cultural life in the city as a direct result of the community arts programme.</p> <p>The community arts team at City of York Council was initiated in partnership with Arts Council England. Since 2004 ACE has contributed over £200,000 to the establishment of a new community arts service in York, on the understanding that it would become an integral element of City of York Council provision. The arts team has more than doubled this money through successful partnerships and grants, and won national awards for the quality of arts work.</p> <p>The Arts Council funding ends in March 2010 – City of York Council proposes to axe the community arts team in April 2010.</p> <p>This raises two questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As one half of a partnership with Arts Council England, what integrity does City of York Council display? • What value do the decision makers at City of York Council place on the York residents who are least able to make their views heard, with limited resources to participate in the cultural life of the city?
Colin Widdup. Professional Artist	<p>As a working professional artist I have always felt the need to communicate with the general public and involve them in Art at whatever level I could. Its all very well producing deep, conceptual work that needs contextualising to understand fully but this is somewhat elitist. Involving the general public in Art at a simpler level, which is what Arts Action York did, and is what professional artists have neither the time nor the skills to organise, can only be good for a sense of community as a whole, for creativity in society, and for the deepening understanding of Art in general.</p> <p>Removing Arts Action York therefore moves York society into ever more regimented, standardised, stratified and ignorant areas. Work - consume - die. Increasing creativity among the general public, not just among the existing elite, on the contrary, leads to freedom.</p>

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<p>Simon Collins York Based Independent Film Maker</p>	<p>I am a York based independent filmmaker, and I owe a lot to Arts Action York for giving me a foot in the door as I was starting out. I have learnt a lot and gained a large amount of experience through the projects I have worked on and run for them, and skills I honed are now ones I use in my professional practice.</p> <p>Every project I have worked on has had support of professionals working alongside the group - medical clinicians, councillors, teachers, and everyone of those has been impressed with the changes they have seen within the participants. One clinician told me that one of the participants who she had been counselling for several years had been discharged directly as a result of the improvements he had made through participating in an arts project.</p> <p>Having seen the impact community arts has had on the many people in the various groups I have worked with through Arts Action York, I feel that it would be a big and short-sighted mistake to cut back the service. It provides skills and experience for people which can be taken into employment, as well as 'softer' skills such as teamwork, confidence and self-belief.</p>
<p>Catherine Heinemeyer 'Nettlefoot Kate', eco-storyteller of York</p>	<p>I am really upset to hear that the Community Arts posts are to be cut. Perhaps you could pass on my comments as a member of many community groups and mother of two young children. I lead a parent and toddler group which has greatly benefited from the input of the community arts team in developing shared projects. The children and their parents had a lot of new experiences through this - they could make mosaics, experiment with clay, explore the local environment from a new perspective, make collages using natural materials - and the project allowed us to draw in many families who otherwise don't get involved in community activities.</p> <p>I am also keenly aware of the community arts team's work with many marginalised groups of people, the added value they provide to children and schools e.g. through the Drama Festival, school holiday activities etc. They earn relatively little and work extremely hard, are experienced practitioners with wide-ranging networks in all communities in York, stretching small budgets a long way to work with as many York people as possible. There are plenty of council officers who are, in contrast, too highly paid for producing too little of value to the public. The council will rue any cuts it makes to frontline staff of this kind; it would be far better off taking a percentage off all salaries over a certain threshold (e.g. £35,000). If a few middle managers leave - it will find new ones!</p>
<p>Andy Herbert Headteacher Fishergate Primary School</p>	<p>I am writing to ask that the following comments be passed on to the Decision Meeting which I understand is taking place on Monday 25th January 2010.</p> <p>I am very concerned to hear about the proposals to reduce the budget for Arts Education resulting in the loss of both Community Arts posts and Arts Consultants whose work has been of great value to all schools</p>

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	<p>over recent years.</p> <p>As a primary school which has worked really hard to develop a creative and holistic view of the educational provision for all the children, Fishergate School will feel the loss of this important service if it is forced to take these drastic cuts in funding. At a time when all primary schools are looking closely at developing the creative and artistic curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils and meet the demands of the new Primary Curriculum expected soon, I feel this decision is short-sighted and will have a negative impact on the lives of the children across the City of York.</p> <p>Over recent years, Fishergate School has used the Arts and Culture service to greatly enhance the quality of learning for its pupils. Last year we took part in the PET project in partnership with the Theatre Royal and this had a tremendous impact on the quality of teaching and learning, leaving a lasting legacy of skills for teachers to use in the future. Under these proposed cuts, such a rich and creative partnership will be under threat.</p> <p>Fishergate School has worked very closely with Tim Brooks as Music Consultant to develop the scale and quality of music in the school. His support through in service training for our Music Leader, support for after school Music Technology Clubs and modeling of teaching in the school has been hugely valuable. This positive and supportive relationship will be under threat.</p> <p>Colin Jackson is well known to many schools as Drama Consultant. The model of support he has set up and used in many schools to develop drama techniques that can be used across the curriculum, is one that I have copied in developing the skills of my staff. Colin's work with schools has been greatly valued and appreciated and has developed the skills of teachers across the City.</p> <p>Fishergate has taken part in several high profile partnership events in the recent past, working with such bodies as the National Centre for Early Music, Sing Up, Grand Opera House and Theatre Royal. I am dismayed that the positive impact on the learning gained through such partnerships will be lost under cost cutting measures at a time when schools are asked to work in partnerships and intensely inspected by Ofsted to see that this is happening. Having had an Inspection this week I know this aspect is rigorously investigated under the new Ofsted Framework.</p> <p>We live in a world where success in schools is measured by progress in narrow aspects of the primary curriculum. It is vital that schools maintain the broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum which supports all children and meets their needs in an increasingly diverse cultural community. I would strongly ask that these proposed decisions to reduce spending be reviewed carefully for the benefit of the children in York. It is only by preserving such experiences for our children that they will grow up as creative and confident learners who have a broad range of skills and interests that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.</p>

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<p>Cluny Macpherson Regional Director (designate) Arts Council England, Yorkshire</p>	<p>I am writing to you in response to the consultation on proposals to reduce spending on Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion services by cutting the community arts service and reducing support for some arts organisations on short term service level agreements.</p> <p>Arts Action York was set up with a grant of £100,000 from the Arts Council and has received another £100,000 in support of subsequent projects. This investment was predicated on the clear documented vision that City of York Council and subsequently Arts Action York had for the role of the arts in improving community life and was backed up by assertions that this work would become part of the core delivery strategy for communities. I am sure you can imagine the strength of our disappointment that, as your key partner in developing and supporting this service, you have chosen not to discuss its future with us, prior to proposing these cuts.</p> <p>The work of Arts Action York has received a variety of plaudits over recent years due to the innovative approach to delivering a wide variety of outcomes for those they work with. Outcomes from this sort of work are economic and social as well as giving residents the opportunity to engage with local cultural activity. It is sometimes only when it is gone and the activity ceases that the true value of the work is recognised locally. We have no doubt that this will be the case if you choose to disinvest in this service. We worry in particular about how the loss of this service will impact negatively on the many festivals that Arts Action York contribute activity towards and how they successfully involve communities that might not ordinarily take part in the cultural life of the city. Successful festivals are the expression of communities celebrating their city.</p> <p>Losing Arts Action York will of course mean we are unable to invest in this kind of work in York in the future since it has undermined the partnership which we have tried hard to develop with the City.</p> <p>We are also concerned about the loss of the small amounts of funding you currently make available through short term service level agreements. Pilot Theatre is an Arts Council regularly funded organisation that has an international reputation for its work - particularly in the area of technology and performance. They are highly effective ambassadors for the City of York and make a positive impression on opinion formers across the globe. They are the embodiment of the more contemporary and dynamic image that York seeks to portray to the world. Although the removal of this relatively small amount of funding to the company is not likely to have a major impact on their operations, it could have a disproportionately negative impact on the way York is perceived externally.</p> <p>On a more general note, Arts Council England invests in the region of £1.3m in York annually. We have done so partly because of the excellent relationship we have with the authority and the understanding we have of the commitment to the arts that existed with members and officers. We acknowledge that the</p>

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	<p>financial circumstances surrounding difficult decisions like this are exceptional, but when we come to make some inevitably difficult decisions in our own forthcoming investment strategy, it will be those authorities that are still committed to the arts that stand more chance of attracting our investment than those that don't.</p> <p>In conclusion, as a public body that also has books to balance, we of course understand the challenge you face at the current time. However, I wonder if you have considered, on a practical financial level, that the impact of these cuts will also amount to hundreds of thousands of pounds additional lost income, on the basis of our own investment levels into the City in recent years.</p>
Emma Melling	<p>It is with great sadness that I hear cuts in such valued services as Community Arts and Arts Education are being considered. Without these, those who need the opportunity to express themselves most will struggle further and the quietest voices will yet again go unheard. This goes against the grain of every working practice in our field. Whilst it is difficult to quantify the value of such services, those who see the impact of this work know that for disadvantaged groups, they are core part of successful interventions to support positive life choices.</p>
Helen Cadbury Freelance Arts Educational Consultant	<p>I am writing to express my dismay at the budget cuts and redundancies proposed for the arts consultants in schools and for the community arts team. It is unthinkable to completely decimate the expertise in this city which has been built up over several years both in schools' provision and in the community. At a time when young people are allegedly being consulted about cultural provision and when the government has laid down expectations of children's cultural entitlement, this sends out a message that this city simply isn't interested in the arts and culture, and it's not interested in what young people need and want. These are not luxuries. The arts are part of what makes us human and civilised. Through engagement in the arts and culture young people learn team work, presentation skills, problem solving, communication: all transferable skills in the 21st century workplace. The work of the consultants has contributed significantly over the years to York schools being among the best in the country. They have ensured that our children experience excellence in creative learning, whatever their background - if it's in school it's for everyone, not just the privileged few. The community arts teams have accessed those most marginalised in our city, offered them positive activities, motivation and learning in an accessible, engaging and professional manner. These are the people who go out there and do the work, they don't spend their time in endless pointless meetings, they spend them working with the clients. If you throw all this away now, you will find it impossible to build again in the future and York will be the poorer for a long time to come.</p>
Dom Smith	<p>I have heard about the cuts being made to community arts. I totally understand that it's a difficult decision for you guys to have to make but I wanted to tell you how important community arts (and of course Arts</p>

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	<p>Education York) is to me on both a personal and professional level. Thank you for your time. I have cerebral palsy which greatly affects the movement in my lower legs and I walk with two sticks. Honestly, it has been difficult for me finding work in journalism (especially in core areas like London with their fantastic public transport system...) over the last year and a half since I graduated from my MA in magazine journalism.</p> <p>Despite doing placements in London and a few in local areas, I have found the volunteer work I do within the York area to be the most helpful and it has enabled me to find some freelance work in areas that I love like online journalism, blogging and social networking and use my skills. In fact, it is so important to me, that I journey from Hull (where I live now) a few days every week to take part in KhaoZ Media and Explore Media (groups supported by AAY). I have found nothing that compares within my area and whenever I do apply for work, people always ask about my contributions as a volunteer with the city.</p> <p>On a final note, the social side is important to me and I have made some great friends and seen people grow and develop so much from having no direction to being a key and integral part of media in York, It really is great.</p>
Mrs D Hennell	<p>I was deeply concerned to hear about the proposed cuts to the Community Arts Budget and the Arts Education Consultancy service.</p> <p>I have lived in York since 1981 and have seen the Arts Centre and Barbican close within that time.</p> <p>For a 'Cultural' city, I feel the City Council are not doing our city justice. We deserve better and I expect my contributions to council funds from my Council Tax to be used in part to benefit the community in which I live.</p> <p>Until recent years, I taught in York for over 15 years and therefore have first hand experience of the benefits the Arts have contributed to thousands of young people in the city.</p> <p>I also have attended many events provided by the Arts in Action (and was sorry the 'Inspire' project of 2007/8 was not repeated 2009)</p> <p>The long term benefits from involving young people and disadvantaged groups into inspired art projects, must surely be recognised by the council. Particularly in the current climate of media coverage on so many dysfunctional children and families. The Arts provide invaluable avenues for many people in the community to have positive, life changing experiences through the various activities provided. Activities that build self-esteem, introduce new experiences, encourage group awareness, all things which enable people to be better citizens and benefit the wider community.</p>

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	<p>The city needs to think again about how our money can best be spent. The Arts surely have to have a high profile, when they offer people so much.</p>
<p>Holly Hennell</p>	<p>I am writing to express my bitter disappointment with the proposal to cease funding for the Community Arts Team and the Arts Consultants.</p> <p>On a personal level, I have lived in York for most of my life and, for the most part, have always been proud to be a resident. One of the things that I enjoy most about York is the range of arts and cultural services on offer. On a professional level, I am fortunate to have worked with staff in Learning, Culture and Children's Services, in particular staff from the Community Arts Team, on many occasions and have always been highly impressed with the work that they deliver and the arts and cultural opportunities that they provide within the City.</p> <p>I find it rather ironic that the visityork website describes York as 'one of Europe's most inspiring cities' and suggests that 'if you are looking for a cultural getaway ... then visit York ...' yet you are planning on depriving the City of much of its culture by ceasing to provide a service which is responsible for this.</p> <p>By the same token, how will it be possible to deliver the current 'Cultural Entitlement for York's 0-19 year olds' without a fully staffed Learning, Culture and Children's Service? I would have assumed that the Community Arts Team would be integral to the delivery of this. You are planning on depriving the City of many of its cultural services at the same time as the Government has expressed its 'commitment to develop ... a comprehensive cultural offer which will ensure that all children and young people aged 0 – 19, have the chance to participate in at least five hours of high quality culture a week in and out of school'. It would seem with your proposal that you are not committed to providing such an opportunity for the young people of York and what an opportunity it could have been.</p> <p>I sincerely believe that York will lose much of its appeal for both residents and visitors alike should your proposals go ahead.</p>
<p>Thea Jacob Early Years Educator, Community Inclusion Facilitator, Singer</p>	<p>Re: Loss of York's Community Arts Service and a suggestion to sustain its core skills and networks in readiness for a future recovery.</p> <p>I hear the news of the proposed cutting of York's Community Arts Service with great sadness. This service, and the team of staff who embody it, has done great work over many years. Many of my projects have benefited from their guidance and support in funding, advise and encouragement.</p> <p>The current recession demands painful prioritising and I recognise that many desirable services cannot be maintained. However the damage caused by the loss of our community arts infrastructure, networks and skills will not be instantly reversible when better financial times return. In the interests of sustaining the skills and networks of the Community Arts Service, to restore services quickly on recovery, I would like to make the following suggestion.</p> <p>Empower existing members of the Community Arts Services team to</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish an independent, self funding agency • explicitly committed to promoting community arts individuals and groups • to provide arts services eg musical, visual, dance, literary • in partnership with Yorkshire Tourist Board, Yorkshire Forward, National Trust, English Heritage, Forestry Commission, York Museums Trust, NRM, York Racecourse etc • for the paying enjoyment of tourist, corporate and festival visitors to York and the region <p>For example, the agency, through its extensive networks, could supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buskers for horse race meetings and stately home events • bespoke concerts for visiting tourist groups eg 20mins of G&S in a medieval hall for day trip coach parties; a local young bands gig for language course groups; conference dinner entertainment • a morris dance workshop for a conference break-out team building session • site specific dance encounters around museums, galleries, parks or forests • site specific poetry graffiti <p>The possibilities are endless. If successful, this strategy would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be at no financial cost to City of York Council • retain, and perhaps even develop, professional expertise in the region • maintain, to some extent, community arts activity for both artists and audiences. • create an enduring independent service, releasing future council support to more specifically targeted cultural inclusion for vulnerable and marginalised groups <p>Please circulate this idea for serious discussion. I am happy to contribute further if helpful. If we can't keep City of York Council's Community Arts Service let's at least try to keep what it does and the people who deliver it.</p>
P E Ireson	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>As a past resident of York and a frequent visitor to events and venues in the city I was most concerned to learn of the proposed cuts to the Community Arts Budget and the Arts Education Consultancy service in the City.</p> <p>This can only mean that those who benefit from projects led by these departments will no longer get the opportunities needed to develop their talents.</p> <p>York is promoted by the council and the Tourist Board as a Cultural City as is clear from their website...</p> <p>“ ...encounter a variety of festivals held throughout the year catering for all ages and interests. “ “Delve into the city's vibrant café culture, take time out to enjoy some of the country's most talented street</p>

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	<p>entertainers” “... Live music, shows, arts and entertainment York has it all”</p> <p>I can only assume that residents of York and in particular young people are the driving force behind these claims. Previous Arts projects in the City have given local young people the opportunity to put on these events for the benefit of York people and for visitors to enjoy.</p> <p>With the closure of the Arts Centre and the Barbican the outlets for cultural events for the city are very limited and surely the current proposals are another step in the wrong direction for the community.</p>
<p>Julian Tonks Chairman, York Croquet Club</p>	<p>Ms Cumming Democracy Officer City of York Council</p> <p>Dear Ms Cumming,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leisure & Culture Meeting 27th January 2010 <u>Annex3 Item LS09</u></p> <p>On behalf of York Croquet Club which is a member of the Scarcroft Green Association I would like to draw the Members attention to a problem which would arise if the proposal in LS09 is agreed. If the Association finds it impossible to fund green maintenance itself bowlers would be able to move to other local greens either as individuals or as a club. This option is not available to the Croquet Club as the nearest clubs are at Ripon and Beverley. Thus if self funding proves impossible York residents would have no opportunities to play the game</p> <p>The club recently celebrated its 21st anniversary by winning the Yorkshire Championship and is presently thriving with new members last year bringing total membership up to 30 who are mainly older men and women who are encouraged to exercise more.</p> <p>Please bring this written representation to the attention of the Members.</p>
<p>Gill Greaves York resident Arts and Museums consultant</p>	<p>I would like to register my concerns about the proposed budget reductions which will cut the community arts budget and cease the arts education consultancy service.</p> <p>I would like to assert that these services <u>are</u> essential front line services and that the City will suffer from this decision.</p> <p>The Arts and Culture service provide important and very effective services to the City. Taking this proposed action will seriously damage the arts and cultural life of what should be a vibrant and growing part of our everyday lives and futures.</p> <p>I work in many aspects of the arts in the city - both in creative industry and in Health and Arts at York</p>

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	<p>Hospitals - I have been continually impressed and supported by an innovative, efficient and highly committed teams in Arts and Culture. I also am aware that they have brought income and support into the city through many bids and collaborations allowing their budgets to be used to their optimum levels, and beyond. The projects carried out by the teams have had huge impact on individuals and communities, often life changing. The service also supports in partnerships and collaborations work with many organisations around the city - all of which are a crucial part of the cultural life of the city and region.</p> <p>This will obviously have an impact on the range of services provided and offered to residents and the community, education and arts sectors. I realise that it is a difficult time of budgetary pressure but I also strongly believe that if you cut this service in community arts and arts education there will be a greater cost to pay in the long term. A study of the impact on the future effect of the cut on this service will expose serious implications on the health and education of our communities, industry and well being in York. I would implore you to consider the longer term implications of this proposal. I would happily contribute to a study into the very real and quite harmful implications of this action.</p>
John Phillips	<p>I have been involved in community media in York for almost twenty years - on the board of The Old Dairy Studios, as director of Yorvid Ltd which was also part of the Yorkshire Media Consortium led by the Yorkshire Film Archive, as a Mobile Arts Youth Worker and as a freelance film maker, trainer and facilitator. I am currently employed as media trainer and facilitator for Khaoz Media and consultant for the development of the Explore Centres at York libraries.</p> <p>I have worked on numerous projects managed by the Arts and Culture department and have only praise for the consistently high-quality work done by the team. However, I recognise that it is not enough for them just to do a good job. We need to establish the value of community arts to the people of York. I would like to try and answer that in three ways.</p> <p>Firstly, the money spent on employing staff at Arts Action York represents an investment which is consistently used to lever in other funds for projects all over the city reaching a broad cross-section of the population and targeting under-represented groups. The level of funding attracted from outside the city runs to hundreds of thousands of pounds. The numbers of participants and the positive feedback demonstrates the high level of public demand for such services.</p> <p>Secondly, many of the people who engage in the activities organised by Arts Action York benefit in a number of different ways. Involvement in arts and media activities can have profound effects on a person's social and economic development, opening up new horizons and changing lives. Providing opportunities to disadvantaged groups can help individuals to explore ways of helping themselves and, by example, helps to signpost new and different possibilities for their peers. The economic benefits may not be obvious or</p>

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	<p>easily measured but, by contributing to solutions to social and cultural deprivation, community arts is significantly cutting expenditure on dealing with problems. How do you measure the money saved by someone NOT getting into trouble?</p> <p>Thirdly, the support and development of strong, vibrant communities can only be a positive benefit to the city as a whole. For instance, the work done with people in care homes and documenting the benefits to residents and relatives can help to improve conditions for all. When people are involved locally, develop a sense of pride in their communities and boost their own self worth, they look after those communities. People who have a voice and access to the means of expressing that voice become proactive in creating a better environment for themselves and the people around them. When communities are looking after themselves, the local authority does not have to put nearly so many resources in.</p> <p>As a York citizen, I would urge the council to reconsider cutting funding to such a vital and integral part of the cultural, social and economic wellbeing of the people of our City.</p>
Colm O'Rourke	<p>I write in reference to the announcement the City of York Council proposals for cuts to the Arts and Culture department to as part of its budget review for the year 2010/2011.</p> <p>I am a freelance cross-platform journalist who has worked, as a volunteer, with the Council for over two years participating in, and assisting in the running of, a series of projects to promote media literacy and develop media production skills among members of the public. This has primarily been through KhaoZ Media, a voluntary community youth media group who were established in 2007, where me and my colleagues in the group create multimedia content on community organisations and the people involved in making them happen.</p> <p>Among the projects the KhaoZ team have been involved in include co-producing an award-winning short film with a student and athlete on the disabled sport boccia, participation in the Illuminating York festival and running associated workshops with schools and youth groups on operating the equipment used in festival performances, and facilitating 20 workshops for the public on the spectrum of practical media skills we employ in group activities.</p> <p>Through my participation in these projects, I have realised the scope of dynamic creative talent among the residents of York. I have worked with people from many backgrounds and experiences, an enriching and invaluable opportunity that would have been impossible if not for the support and dedication of the Arts Action York team. I feel it is a bitter irony that Council funding, the main generator of finance and human resources for these projects, would deny other people in the city the same opportunity in the future.</p>

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	<p>On a personal level, my participation in Council-led community arts projects has helped me in dealing with depression. Before becoming involved in community arts in York as a volunteer, I worked in the professional media industry. I left my job due to the high pressure involved, and it is through the voluntary work I have done with KhaoZ Media and other community arts projects that I have begun to feel more confident in not only my journalism skills, but also in my social and communication skills. Without KhaoZ Media, I would not have made strong personal bonds with like-minded young filmmakers, web designers, photographers and other journalists - which I strongly believe has played an integral part in my rehabilitation.</p> <p>I fear a reduction, or the complete cessation, of Council financial and human support for community arts in the city of York will stifle the increasing interest and desire that is nurturing around the city. I believe the people of York would benefit strongly from having a platform for alternative media content that they can assist in, or totally produce, themselves. A reduction or prohibition of community arts funding from the City of York Council would limit opportunities for informal learning in the community, the personal development of those involved, and a chance for local people to take a greater involvement in the political and social agendas of the city.</p> <p>I would ask the members of the Council involved in the decision-making process, Executive and Non-Executive, to reconsider their proposed budget cuts for the sake of not just those actively involved in community arts and community media, paid and volunteers, but for the sake of the city as a whole.</p>
<p>Steve Smith Executive Headteacher Fulford and Millthorpe Schools</p>	<p>I understand that Learning, Culture and Children's Services must make significant savings and the option of reducing non-statutory services has been put forward. The current proposals are that the community arts budget and the arts education consultancy service budget will cease as part of the savings process. This means that the two community arts posts will be lost, as well as the three consultant posts within the Arts Education Service. This will inevitably have an impact on the range of services provided to schools, young people, teachers and the wider community.</p> <p>It has been asked what the effects might be in terms of the Arts Consultant posts should the budget cuts proposal go ahead as there will be a wide range of possible impacts on service delivery. I know that these are wide ranging and will vary from school to school. However I would just point out the impact that this would have for Fulford School as one example.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts Support for schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curriculum support will no longer be available ▪ No support for our current and future Artsmark work/application

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No consultant facilitated arts training courses and project ▪ No consultant support for the Wider Opportunities programme which benefits our students ▪ The local authority will lose its Arts Award Training Licence <p>2. The following cultural opportunities for young people may be compromised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drama, Dance and Music festival ▪ Best of the Bands <p>The Drama performance by the students from Fulford School that was so well received at the NEEC and showcased the talents of youngsters from the City of York, and thus York's educational provision by inference, was supported by Colin Jackson. If the proposed cuts had been introduced last year or so then this performance may not have been possible or at least as effective as it so proved</p> <p>We also are regular contestants with regard to the Best of the Bands, having several bands each year that enter this competition.</p> <p>I understand that cuts have to be made but would implore you to ask the Members and Officers on Monday 25 January to re consider with regard to this proposal and look for another alternative.</p> <p>There is more that I could say but I only received information with regard to this late on Thursday. Consequently I have not been able to liaise with staff from Millthorpe who would add to this.</p> <p>Local Authority links with local, regional and national Arts Organisations/providers may be compromised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Theatre Royal * Grand Opera House * National Centre for Early Music * University of York Music Education Group * York St.John University * Trinity Guildhall/OU KS2 CPD programme * National Association of Music Educators (NAME) * Sing Up * Teaching Music website editorial board * Arts Council * Arts Award * BBC local radio * Music Leader
Eloise Ross	I have been informed of the proposed plan to remove the Arts Community posts and would wish to comment on this proposal as follows.

Received from:	Comments
	<p>Having previously worked in the Arts & Culture Service, I have had the pleasure of working with the Arts Action Team.</p> <p>Furthermore, since leaving the Arts & Culture Service, I have also had the opportunity to work with them in my occasional engagement as a freelance photographer.</p> <p>In my dealings with them I have always found the members of the Arts Action Team to be highly professional, extremely hard working and passionately, dedicated to their work. This small team has built strong links with local community groups and has proven to be very successful in bringing arts and creativity projects to parts of the community who may otherwise not have had the opportunity to participate in such activities.</p> <p>However, the impact of the work of the Arts Action Team goes beyond the immediate enjoyment of individuals taking part in an artistic or creative endeavour. For example, I was recently involved with a Community Arts project that brought a group of Young Carers together with a number of elderly carers. The project had a significant, positive impact on the children involved and they had a great interaction with the elderly carers; something which would have been highly unlikely to have occurred had it not been facilitated by the Arts Action Team. Another project that I have observed recently involved a local Autistic group called Aspire. The adults involved in this project found that it helped them to work more effectively in a group, developed a stronger interaction between them and built their confidence when interacting with the general public.</p> <p>The immediate benefits of the Arts Action Team to the individuals who take part in their events are obvious and many.</p> <p>However, the benefits to the wider community of projects such as those mentioned above are perhaps immeasurable. I would therefore request that the decision to remove the Arts Community posts be reconsidered.</p>
M. Robinson and J Darrill	As member of scarcroft ladies bowls club, we object to the proposal for the council to stop maintaining the greens on scarcroft road. There are 5 bowling clubs and 1 croquet club with approx 100 members between them. Why maintain hull road and rowntree park greens when no one uses them.
Douglas Mumford Chairman, Scarcroft Bowling Club	We wish to register a strong objection to the proposal to cease maintenance of Scarcroft Bowling green. There are four bowling clubs who have Scarcroft as their home ground with some 70 odd members. Relocation is not an option. The Hull Road greens are subject to vandalism and nuisance from local youth. It was for this reason that the previous club there moved to the Retreat. The greens in Rowntree Park are subject to flooding and there are no decent changing facilities there.

Received from:	Comments
	<p>As for paying for the maintenance ourselves, including the croquet club there are some 100 current users of these greens and this would mean that the cost to each member would be £90 per annum. Well beyond our member's pockets.</p>
<p>Volunteer from Arts Action York and for Arts Education projects</p>	<p>I would like to air my opposition against the proposed Arts and Culture job cuts as released in January 2010.</p> <p>I have volunteered with Arts Action York and for Arts Education projects on many occasions, and have found the benefits of being involved to be immense – and on a level that is not offered elsewhere.</p> <p>The department is one of the most accessible in the council that I know of, have a very strong presence, and are supportive to local individuals and creative groups, allowing them to collaborate and share skills.</p> <p>If the positions which provide so many opportunities were not available, I feel that York would be severely under represented nationally and internationally as a creative city. York as a creative city currently demonstrates that it has a strong social interest and responsibility in the arts and culture of the region, as it stands, and as it develops in the future – a stance which will be set back almost 5 years at least if the jobs are cut.</p> <p>The projects that I have experienced must encourage so many people to actively develop their skills, seek further employment go on to higher education and eventually contribute to the creative economy in a positive and unmatched way.</p> <p>As an individual who has worked with over 50 local community groups over the last 3 years I feel that the demand for Arts and Culture department is growing faster than it ever has, and rather than cutting resources in this area, the council should most definitely be investing, to make the current projects more effectively promoted, and the culmination of all projects past and present to be more readily available online so that the lessons learned and resources acquired can be shared and built upon by the public as opposed to predominantly internally as they currently are.</p>

Received from:	Comments
	<p>I thank you for your time, and hope that you appreciate I could go into finer details with the arguments presented, as well as many others – however, I hope that the right thing will be done, and our Arts and Culture department is not neglected and left by the way side.</p> <p>*The Arts is important, and should be recognised by investment from City of York Council.*</p>
Peter Goodall	<p>We write in the hope that you consider the importance of maintaining funding for arts action project which includes Khaoz Media. Please find below the reason why we feel this service provides a vital part in the community and in aiding recovery from mental health problems.</p> <p>Our service (Early Intervention team) works with individuals who have a experienced episode of serious mental illness. A vital component of our input is based upon social recovery. Our clients often encounter difficulties in accessing appropriate services that facilitate social recovery.</p> <p>Many of our clients have accessed theYork CVS and we have forged excellent working links with this voluntary provider. A recent example includes one of our clients who became involved with the Khaoz Media project in January 2009. The project served to provide a vital part in his recovery from illness. He has been actively involved in many of their projects and has genuinely felt 'part of the team'. His role within the project has resulted in improved social skills and subsequent self-confidence through the excellent support he receives. Whilst mental health services are able to address specific difficulties with people, they are unable to address all their needs. Therefore, we rely upon community services such as Khaoz Media and Arts Action to provide recovery in other aspects of their lives. We feel very strongly about this within in our team and would again ask that you consider the importance of maintaining services for individuals who are often discriminated against and vulnerable to further setbacks.</p>
John Bracken	<p>The Scarcroft Green Association was given information a week ago regarding the proposed withdrawal of Green Maintenance facilities beginning in 2011 for our bowling greens and the croquet lawn. I think you will agree that was insufficient time to arrange a meeting with the clubs concerned in order to discuss the matter and make our objections known to you before your Council Meeting tomorrow, Wednesday 27th January.</p> <p>I feel I must write to voice my opinion. As you know there have been long established Ladies and Mens clubs on this site, and in 1996 the Council offered us the opportunity of becoming a semi-private concern, whereby the Council would be responsible for the maintenance of the greens. Since that time we have been joined by three more Bowling Clubs and a Croquet Club.</p> <p>We now have 100 members who play here regularly during the summer - mostly senior citizens. As we grow older we are encouraged to participate in sport to keep ourselves healthy, thus alleviating the pressure</p>

Received from:	Comments
	<p>on our already over-stretched National Health Service. Bowls and Croquet are two sports that people of our age can enjoy for the rest of our lives.</p> <p>We all have a very happy relationship, sometimes running competitions between Clubs, and would be most upset if we had to leave and join other Clubs due to insufficient funds to survive.</p> <p>I understand that there are plans to re-turf the bowling greens at Rowntree Park and Hull Road Park. I wonder if any of you have been to Rowntree Park lately? Not only do the greens flood most winters, but to my knowledge only one Club (Rowntree Park Ladies B.C.) have been playing there and they have now moved. Maybe a putting green or crazy golf would benefit the Council's coffers more, or are you re-turfing the greens for purely cosmetic purposes to give a good impression to the many tourists who visit our City?</p> <p>My attention was drawn to a short article in The Press last Tuesday, that the City of York Council received £1.1 million pounds last year for work that would be carried out under the Government's Playbuilders scheme for the benefit of children in the area. Does the Government provide a similar grant for people in their second childhood?!</p> <p>It seems to me the benefits of continuing the maintenance at Scarcroft Greens far outweigh that of reinstatement of bowls facilities at Rowntree Park and Hull Road Park, which are virtually non-existent.</p>

[Statement from one of the Arts Action Officers]

I undertook extensive consultations in 8 developing childrens centres across York using initial grant monies from ACE and then secured £50K from childrens services to create emmas post - a community arts programme then ensued across York and this work led on to a successful bid to ACE for (30K) to develop the INVOLVE programme. This work also attracted funding from neighbourhood teams and wards etc.

This whole initiative was a fantastic example of our cross council working and was recognised by the leaders of Childrens Centres across the country, ACE and was showcased at NALGAO conference to other local authorities.

It is acknowledged as a ground breaking approach to using community arts within childrens centres within areas of identified deprivation to raise the profile of the range of family services and increase participation in the arts which in turn created a sense of ownership, pride and community cohesion within these areas. In addition to giving very young children opportunities for learning and giving them a voice, the programme created volunteering opportunities, learning opportunities for targeted families including those currently unemployed, homeless or living in travelling communities.

It also puts York at the forefront of developments within the cultural offer to the under 5s. This work is on-going and we are continuing to create and strengthen partnerships with cultural providers and childrens service providers across York. The next step being to award partnership grants (ACE funded) to increase and support work with under 5s and their families who will be given access to the arts in York, often for the first time.

THIS WORK WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT ARTS ACTION YORK and it essentially levered £100,000 K into this area of work from budgets other than arts and culture and I have no doubt would continue to grow and attract attention and external funding should the infrastructure remain.

[Further statement from Arts Action Officers]

For six years ARTS ACTION YORK have run an extensive programme of arts with a vast number and range of community groups and statutory services across the City of York. We have run highly successful pilot projects and instigated innovative and nationally recognised initiatives,.

We have targeted grass root groups in the community and have many stories of individuals of all ages whose life, health and economic circumstances have benefited from our work. We have worked in the areas of deprivation such as Bell Farm, Clifton and Tang Hall.

Our work has increased understanding of the power and value of creativity in raising self esteem, skill levels and confidence in individuals and proven the benefit to communities in reducing tensions between ages and raised young peoples pride in their neighbourhoods by involving them in public art projects.

We have created volunteer opportunities and paid work for many.

WE have done this work without using a single penny of City of York Council monies aside from our salaries, we have levered in in kind contributions and hundreds of thousands in funding from external funders and other organisations which have committed time and money to this worthwhile arts programme, hence benefiting York's residents, in many cases the most vulnerable .

Some comments from participants in 2 of my most recent projects;-

comments from isolated adults suffering mental health distress

I found it most enjoyable as it took my mind off other things.

I have found the workshops full of peace and calm.

I enjoyed learning new techniques, it was interesting to share ideas with others.

I like to do things that are therapeutic and found the workshops easy going and friendly.

I found it very therapeutic and relaxing.

The project really helped me cope with my anxiety.

It took the voices away.

I enjoyed meeting others and having company.

It gave structure and activity to my day. Most enjoyable.

It allowed me to follow an interest away from home with new people which makes it relaxing and sociable.

It gave me a chance to be with others in a group with good dynamics.

It was good to have the freedom to express myself in a safe environment.

I think it would be good to carry on with these creative workshops , they have huge benefits to people struggling with mental health issues.

Thank you for organising this.

I feel anxious before I arrive, but it really helps me calm down.

comments from adults and young people who are carers

Being with other carers in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere was wonderful.

- Good to have time to be creative and relax in that time.

- It gave me a sense of focus for a few hours.
- I lost life's worries and woes in drawing.
- Being around friendly and helpful people, good company. Words are like food, they fill people up.
- Informative and friendly atmosphere, a wonderful and stimulating project.
- My world as a carer was very small, since attending these sessions and meeting these kind people my world has grown, along with my confidence.
- It has helped me to care better for my husband, I found that I had more patience with him, as a result of coming here to the art project.
- The opportunity to be creative led to me being more relaxed all week.

Comments from staff;

- We identified particular skills being developed in individual young carers - they gained confidence and pride. Everyone was able to participate in some way. We had better than usual attendance (particularly 12 to 15 age group) which shows how much they enjoyed it!
- The project helped to boost confidence levels for carers and spark renewed interest in art activities.
- For some carers the exhibition opening was the first time they had attended a carers centre social event.
- One carer commented how it had helped them have more patience in their caring role.
- I've really enjoyed working with this lovely group of caring people. They have produced some really special work.
It focused the participants attention on to their own sense of identity and what is important to them aside from their predominant concern of the well being of another. This project gave the carers a respite from the role of care giver and gave them space to explore their inner life.
- Some outcomes achieved far exceeded expectations such as one group member who reported having regained her confidence and having her motivation returned to her through this project.
- The sessions which brought adult and young carers together provided opportunities for wonderful inter generational interaction and an opportunity for all to try digital drawing with light as well as traditional media.
- This has been one of the most exciting projects I have ever been involved in The young carers were so generous with their personal efforts and contributions.
- This was a really fantastic opportunity for York carers who have never participated in the big draw before and have limited opportunities for creative activity and space just for them.
It was really rewarding to see the young carers helping the elderly carers with their drawings and the technology - and each seemed to understand one another's needs and obviously felt comfortable and happy in each others company.

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