



# Notice of a public

Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects Meeting to be held in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods (for agenda item 4 Annual Report on Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefits Activities (2021/22)

**To:** Councillor Ayre (Executive Member for Finance and

Major Projects) and Craghill (Executive Member for

Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods)

Date: Monday, 12 September 2022

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

#### **AGENDA**

# Notice to Members - Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item\* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00pm** on Wednesday 14 September 2022.

\*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any items that are called in will be considered by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5:00pm on Thursday 8 September 2022.** 

#### 1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

**2. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 9 May 2022.

### 3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee. The deadline for registering at this meeting is at **5:00pm** on **Thursday 8 September 2022.** 

To register to speak please visit <a href="https://www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings">www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings</a> to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting whose details can be found at the foot of the agenda.

## **Webcasting of Public Meetings**

Please note that, subject to available resources, this public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at <a href="https://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts">www.york.gov.uk/webcasts</a>.

# 4. Annual Report on Financial Inclusion and (Pages 5 - 44) Welfare Benefits Activities (2021/22)

This report provides the Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods with the Financial Inclusion/Welfare Benefits outturn report 2021/22 and an update on the first quarter of 2022/23 including:

- the financial support available to residents dealing with the challenges of covid-19 during 21/22 and the cost of living impacts moving into 2022/23;
- an update on benefits statistics and performance administered by the council including the York Financial Assistance Scheme;
- other financial inclusion (FI) activity during 2021/22 including delivery of Financial Inclusion grant schemes.

# 5. Submission of funding bids to Levelling Up (Pages 45 - 54) Fund in accordance with delegations from Executive Committee at item 5, 16.6.22

This report follows the Executive decision in June 2022 to submit 2 bids to the second round of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The report formally records the subsequent decision (of the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects, as delegated by the Executive), to submit the bids. The report also sets out the final bid compositions.

# 6. Application for Community Right to Bid under (Pages 55 - 72) the Localism Act 2011

This report details an application to list Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn, York as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), for consideration by the Council. The application has been received from Naburn Parish Council.

#### 7. Urgent Business

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

# **Democracy Officer:**

Name: Angela Bielby

Telephone: (01904) 552599 Email: a.bielby@york.gov.uk

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

- Registering to speak
- · Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息(Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)
Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim
własnym języku.

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

(Urdu) یه معلومات آب کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔

**7** (01904) 551550

| City of York Council | Committee Minutes  |
|----------------------|--|
| Meeting              | Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance and Performance  |
| Date                 | 9 May 2022   |
| Present              | Councillor Ayre (Executive Member for Finance and Performance) and Councillor Craghill (Executive Member for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods) [until 10.12am] |

#### 20. Declarations of Interest

The Executive Member was asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests, not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that he might have had in respect of business on the agenda. They confirmed he had none.

#### 21. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 11 April 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Executive Member.

# 22. Public Participation

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

# 23. Household Support Fund April 22 - September 22

The Executive Members considered a report that presented the Household Support Fund (HSF) scheme April to September 2022 for approval. The Director Customer and Communities outlined the scheme, including an amendment to Route 1a – Direct Payment to include all identified Council Tax Support (CTS) customers in receipt of High Rate Personal Independence Payment or High Rate Disability Living Allowance.

The Director Customer and Communities was asked about access for the schemes for payments for people who could not access the information online. She explained that those residents could be supported by contacting the council by telephone and they could make an appointment at

the customer centre. She added that the council had tried to contact residents as quickly as possible which helped free up staff resource to help other residents requiring support. She noted that residents could also access support through other agencies such as Citizens Advice York (CAY) acting on their behalf.

The Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods welcomed the government's financial support with the scheme and she noted that the council had consulted advice agencies. She welcomed the proposals, in particular the £50k funding for food vouchers, which would help families pay for food. She noted the increase in children eligible for free school meals in the city. The Executive Member for Finance and Performance also welcomed the funding from government and he noted the importance of communication information on the schemes to residents. He thanked staff for their work on the schemes. They then;

Resolved: That approval be given to:

- a) the council's HSF scheme (as detailed at Annex A of the report); including the addition of Council Tax Support Customers in receipt of the High Rate Disability Living Allowance [as well as those Council Tax Support Customers in receipt of the High Rate Personal Independence Payment] for Route A – Direct Payment
- b) allocation of £50k in funding to food vouchers (as detailed at paragraph 9 and Annex A of the report);
- c) the delegation of discretion to pay claims made within the broader scope of the scheme guidance as set out by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) (as detailed at Annex B of the report) to the Head of Customer & Exchequer Services.

Reason: To provide financial support to the city's most financially vulnerable residents through the April – September 2022 arising from the ongoing cost of living increases.

[The Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods left the meeting at 10.12am]

# 24. Regular update on routine procurements and approval of ICT procurement over £250k

The Executive Member considered a report presenting a register of procurement exercises deemed routine for the period of April 2020 to April 2022. These had been defined as routine procurements as per the council's contract procedure rules and expenditure would within existing

capital and revenue budget provisions. It was intended that the reports will be brought to the decision session every 6 months, with any non routine ICT or other procurements reported as they arose, between £250k and £500k in value. The Chief Finance Officer reported that there had been five procurements within those amounts over the last two years. She explained the meaning of routine procurements. The Executive Member then;

Resolved: That the routine procurements approved during the period April

2020 to April 2022 (as detailed at Annex A of the report) be

noted.

Reason: To ensure the that councillors receive reports on routine

procurement decisions in line with the council's contract procedure rules and the public have the opportunity to see transparent decision-making in operation relating to major ICT

procurements.

Cllr Ayre (Executive Member)
[The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.15 am].

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# **Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects Decision Session**

12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

# Financial Inclusion/Welfare Benefits Update Report Summary

- 1. This report provides the Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods with the Financial Inclusion/Welfare Benefits outturn report 2021/22 and an update on the first quarter of 2022/23 including:
  - the financial support available to residents dealing with the challenges of covid-19 during 21/22 and the cost of living impacts moving into 2022/23;
  - an update on benefits statistics and performance administered by the council including the York Financial Assistance Scheme;
  - other financial inclusion (FI) activity during 2021/22 including delivery of Financial Inclusion grant schemes.

#### Recommendations

2. The Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects is asked to note the report and the support provided to residents who are financially vulnerable.

Reason: to ensure councillors, residents and stakeholder groups are aware of the ongoing financial inclusion activity across the city. The use of associated funding including Covid-19 and cost of living support and their impacts.

#### **Welfare Benefits Update**

3. The council provides a broad range of welfare support to residents through the York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS), Council Tax Support (CTS) and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). The breadth of this support was increased during 2020 through to 2022 to help residents during the Covid-19 pandemic and more recently with the cost of living increases. The additional schemes and support are picked up in the following paragraphs.

# York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS)

- 4. The YFAS scheme was established in April 2013, following the transfer of responsibility (and initially funding) from central government. The former national scheme, delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), was part of the Social Fund. YFAS is now fully funded and locally administered by the council and can assist residents to stay or move into the community or with emergencies.
- 5. In 2021/22, 1,284 YFAS applications were received. This is over 400 less than 2020/21. In terms of context the Government introduced in 2020 support to households through covid-19 support grants and by November 2021 and into 2022/23 these moved to household support grants to help with the cost-of-living crisis. The implementation of these schemes reduced demand on YFAS a trend that is reversing as we move through 2022/23.
- 6. Full details of the spend and the trend in YFAS claims are set out in Annex A.
- 7. Table 1 below sets out all the welfare support provided across 2021/22 the isolation payments total is for the 2020/22 period:

Table 1 Total Welfare Spend

| Isolation Payments 2020/22     | 3182  | £ 1,591,000 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| COVID Support Grant 2021/22    | 2846  | £ 390,023   |
| Household Support Fund 2021/22 | 6905  | £ 1,037,906 |
| DHP2021-22                     | 400   | £ 231,377   |
| YFAS 2021-22                   | 990   | £ 259,870   |
| HB 2021-22                     | 6300  | £25,174,452 |
| CTS 2021-22                    | 9365  | £ 7,850,006 |
| CTS Hardship payments 2021-22  | 6000  | £ 476,686   |
| TOTAL                          | 35988 | £37,011,320 |

## **Household Support Fund (HSF)**

- 8. The Government announced on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 the Household Support Fund (HSF) for families in financial need was to be distributed by County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England effective 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This replaced the Covid Support Grant as set out in Table 1 above and started to address the transition from covid-19 support to 'cost of living' support.
- 9. The Household Support Fund was introduced to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. It could also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs where appropriate. At least 50% of the total funding had to be spent on families with children.
- 10. City of York Council was allocated £1,037,906 to cover the period 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- 11. The HSF provided grants through two routes by invitation based on selected eligibility criteria and a discretionary scheme for other residents. £20,000 of funding was also allocated to provide a fuel voucher scheme.
- 12. People who met the following eligibility criteria were invited by letter to apply for the grant scheme:
  - families with dependent children under 18 who are currently receiving Council Tax Support;
  - people in receipt of Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support and Enhanced Personal Independence Payments (PIP).
- 13. The support was provided as two payments, one in early December 2021 and a second amount in February 2022. These payments were intended to help families with household bills. The payment was a standard amount based on the number of children in the family. Residents who did not meet the criteria but who were struggling to meet their bills could also apply through the discretionary element of the scheme. There was some residual funding from the overall scheme left at the end of March 2022 but not sufficient for a third payment. To support residents and avoid paying back to central government the money was spent on buying further fuel and food vouchers (£125k) to be spend across 2022/23.
- 14. The government announced on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 that further funding of £1,037,906 was to be provided for a new Household Support Fund

scheme for April to September 2022/23. Government guidance set out how Local Authorities must use the funding as set out below:

- at least one third of the total funding must be used to support households with children,
- at least one third of the total funding must be used to support pensioners,
- the remaining funding to other households genuinely in need of support.
- payments must be to help in one of the eligible categories Food, Energy & Water, Essentials linked to Energy & Water, Wider Essentials, and Exceptional Emergency Housing Costs.
- 15. The key points of the council's scheme are set out below:
  - Two routes to apply for the new Household Support Fund invitation and discretionary.
  - The 6,700 eligible residents who met the qualifying criteria received an invitation.
  - Approximately 1,300 did not respond to the invitation letter and will be issued a cheque at the end of September 22.
  - £50k of the funding was allocated to create a CYC Food Voucher Scheme alongside the fuel voucher scheme.

#### **Fuel & Food Voucher Scheme**

- 16. The York Fuel and Food Voucher scheme was set up using funding from both Government grant (HSF) and council budget £250k. The scheme provides food and fuel vouchers delivered through advice support workers both CYC and charity/voluntary sector. An important element of the scheme is that these are provided to York residents affected poverty and debt alongside information and advice on benefits and other longer-term support.
- 17. Fuel vouchers awards are allocated at standard award amounts of
  - 1 x £28 for a single person household
  - 1 x £49 for a two or more-person household
- 18. CYC Food Vouchers are provided for use at ASDA, Tesco or Morrisons Food vouchers awards are allocated at standard award amounts of
  - 1 x £30 for a single person household
  - 1 x £60 for a household of two to five people
  - 1 x £100 for a household of six people or more

- 19. Approved vouchers applications are sent electronically directly to the resident by SMS text or email. Households can receive a maximum of 3 food vouchers and 3 fuel voucher awards from the scheme during 2022/23. Anyone needing further assistance over and above the 3 vouchers can apply for additional support via York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS) at https://www.york.gov.uk/YFAS or York Food Bank as appropriate. Payments are summarised in Annex B.
- 20. There are 16 support service partners in the scheme from within the council and the charity/voluntary sector. Currently, some 110 support workers are registered to process applications to award vouchers from:

| Age UK York                                   | Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust - Money Advisers |
|---|--|
| CAP (Christians Against Poverty debt advice)  | Local Area Coordinators - CYC                  |
| Citizens Advice York                          | Older Citizens Advocacy York (OCAY)            |
| Community Mental Health - Pathway to recovery | Peasholme Charity                              |
| Communities - CYC                             | Welfare Benefits Income Services - CYC         |
| Community Links                               | York Energy Advice                             |
| Council Tax Benefits Advice Project – CYC     | York Foodbank                                  |
| Housing Management Officers - CYC             |  |

#### **Isolation Grants**

21. The Government provided funding (£500 per claimant) across the pandemic to support those on low income who would lose pay through self-isolating. These ended in February 2022 and full spend is set out in Table 1 at paragraph 7 above.

# **Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)**

22. The council received £231k in government funding for DHPs (2021/22) to help with residents housing costs and has an additional CYC budget of £27k in reserve. Table 2 below shows the 21/22 spend and position at the end of quarter 1 2022/23.

Table 2 - Discretionary Housing Payment

|                          | 2021/22  |      | Q1 2022/2 | 23  |
|--------------------------|----------|------|-----------|-----|
| Total DHP Fund available | £231,377 | 100% | £231,377  |     |
| Amount spent             | £231,377 | 100% | £61,805   | 38% |
| Amount remaining         | 0        |      | £160,661  |     |

£27k contingency not included in budget

## **Council Tax Support (CTS)**

23. CTS awards amongst working age residents, after rising during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, has fallen to similar levels to those pre-Covid, as shown in Table 3 below. This reflects a reduction more widely in claims for means-tested benefits. However, CTS claims are still comparatively lower than Universal Credit (UC) claims and claims for pensioners has reduced again indicating that not all qualifying residents are making claims.

Table 3 – CTS Caseload

| Council Tax Support caseload | Working age | Pensioners | Total |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------|
| March 2020                   | 4,682       | 4,034      | 8,716 |
| September 2020               | 5,535       | 3,997      | 9,532 |
| March 2021                   | 5,512       | 3,887      | 9,399 |
| March 2022                   | 4,685       | 3,735      | 8,420 |
| June 2022                    | 4,578       | 3,698      | 8,276 |

24. The Government provided a further Hardship Fund as part of its Covid grant support in 21/22 and the council provided existing and new claimants of CTS with up to £75 towards their bill during year. The total support provided to residents through this scheme was £477k as set out at Table 1 of this paper.

# **Council Tax £150 Energy Rebate**

- 25. In March 22 the Government announced a new scheme to support residents with the increased cost of living crisis through the Council Tax Energy Rebate of £150 per eligible property.
- 26. All residents who were liable for council tax at a property in council tax bands A to D, and who are responsible for payment of the energy bills qualified for the rebate.
- 27. The core scheme will close at the end of September and the discretionary element at the end of November. No resident will miss out and those who have not claimed will have a credit awarded to their council tax account the current position is set out in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Summary Fuel Rebate Scheme Payments

| Overall Summary Total Eligible Customers | No<br>74,421 | £  | £<br>11,163,150 | %<br>100% |
|--|--------------|----|-----------------|-----------|
| Total Customers Paid                     | -64,673      | -£ | 9,700,950       | -87%      |
| Paid using DD* information               | -50,225      | -£ | 7,533,750       | -78%      |
| Paid via Application -Cash               | -9,884       | -£ | 1,482,600       | -15%      |
| Paid via application - Credit            | -4,564       | -£ | 684,600         | -7%       |
| Total Customers Left to Pay              | 9,748        | £  | 1,462,200       | 13%       |

\*Direct Debit

# **Universal Credit (UC)**

28. Support with claiming Universal Credit remains with CAY. The overall UC picture for York as of June 2022 is set out at Annex C of this paper and remains high compared to the pre-pandemic position. Whilst the most recent figures show unemployment in the city at 1.8% the number of residents on UC has risen to £11.2k. This is a clear indication of the low wage economy in some sectors which is not taking residents away from reliance on welfare benefits.

# Information, sign posting and communications

- 29. It has become even more important that residents know about what support is available if they are struggling financially and where to get advice and assistance to secure/ apply for benefits, grant and other financial support. The pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis have seen the introduction of a range of support, often time limited, as well as changes to ongoing benefits.
- 30. The CYC and Live Well York (LWY) website have been key tools in providing welfare support information to keep people up to date with the ongoing changes and differing criteria. Regular updates to staff have been provide through emails, briefing sessions and network meetings.
- 31. The 'Guide to money and benefits advice in York' booklet has been circulated through all Explore libraries, community venues and advice and support services. Information is also included regularly in Our City and on social media through CYC, LWY and third sector partners.
- 32. In Oct/Nov 21 the council worked with partners on York Challenge Poverty Talk Money Month. This was a series of events and a media campaign to support local people to:

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- feel confident about managing their money
- know where to get information and advice
- know what financial support is available and how to get it
- be confident about getting the best deal on their bills, such as gas, electricity and internet
- know where to get debt advice to help them deal with problem debts
- know where they can go for help.
- 33. Information pages were set up on <a href="https://www.livewellyork/talkmoney">www.livewellyork/talkmoney</a> and local activities and events were added to the online calendar.
- 34. Promoted advice and support is available at community hubs which have re-opened following the pandemic restrictions, both online and locally. Third sector advice partners promoted their sessions on the LWY calendar as part of the month of action.
- 35. The council arranged three online events plus the City of York Council Facebook Q&A events. The CYC Facebook event reached 215 people with a further 126 engaging at some point.
- 36. There were 30 Facebook posts promoting the month, as well as 8 twitter posts that were retweeted/liked 70 times.
- 37. The <a href="https://www.livewellyork.co.uk/talkmoney">https://www.livewellyork.co.uk/talkmoney</a> was viewed over 1,000 times in the first two weeks. We have adapted the information on the page so this can continue as an ongoing resource. It continues to be the most visited page on their website with over 2,000 visits in June 2020.
- 38. The council has run three further Talk Money Weeks during 2022 on social media and promoted through partners in February, April and June in the run up to the school holidays: highlighting the support available in the community and sign posting to support through <a href="https://www.livewellyork.co.uk/talkmoney.">https://www.livewellyork.co.uk/talkmoney.</a>
- 39. A further York Talk Money month 2022 is being planned from 10 October 11 November 2022.
- 40. The council have work with the Food Aid Network to produce the 'Worrying About Money' guide which will be available in libraries and community venues around the city.

#### **Work of Welfare Benefits Officers**

41. The Income Services Team through its Benefits and Contributions Advisers officers have supported 630 residents providing advice and

support which has generated welfare benefit gains of £3.054m in 2021/22.

# **Housing Update**

- 42. Rent arrears in 2021/22 (April 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 to April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022) increased for a range of reasons including:
  - the ongoing cumulative impact of covid 19 on people's finances, employment and ability to access furlough payments.
  - local and national restrictions on the approach to arrears collection and enforcement actions (only 'soft' contacts were made during the restricted periods).
  - implementation of a new Housing wide IT system including an implementation period, staff training and rectification of post go-live system problems.
  - staff recruitment and retention issues.
  - the ongoing impact of welfare reform and the roll out of Universal Credit including a backlog of annual rent increase notifications (now cleared).
  - the emerging impact of the cost of living crisis.
- 43. Arrears recovery action had been suspended for such a long period that we were effectively starting from scratch with many cases from an enforcement escalation perspective. This did not apply where existing court orders were in place. All contacts focused on providing advice, making reasonable repayment agreements, accessing benefits and grants as well as other appropriate support where needed. Arrears at March 2021 were £1,130,421 and increased further throughout the following year.
- 44. On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021 arrears were £1,149,964. From April 2021 to March 2022 council tenant rent arrears increased further to £1,305,398, an overall increase by 13.52%. Currently rent arrears stand at £1,661,758 as of July 2022. Monthly increases in arrears have, as predicted, increased due to the reasons outlined above. We are expecting a backlog of UC payments to come through to rent accounts following the elimination of the backlog of year end rent notifications.
- 45. The Housing Management Team have continued to work in partnership with other council departments and partners across the city to help people living in our homes access the support they need. We took part in the implementation of the Breathing Space system providing some relief from formal action where appropriate. We have worked closely with DWP to obtain Alternative Payment Arrangements, 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Payments

- especially where arrangements restrict the ability of people to cover basic costs.
- 46. Housing Officers have supported tenant and their families / communities through continually difficult times and will continue to do so through what is to be increasingly difficult times to come. They have helped tenants with Discretionary Housing Payments, YFAS applications, Food and Fuel Vouchers, alternative housing if they were either under occupying or over occupying and need to move to assist with their financial situation. Repayment arrangements have been re-negotiated where they had become unaffordable, and we have promoted the use of Direct Debit to help people budget.
- 47. DWP continue to take their payments direct from Universal Credit before any other debts and take up to 20% of their total UC payment leaving tenants struggling to pay their basic rent and bills.
- 48. It is felt by the Housing teams that our customers are presenting with increasing vulnerabilities and complex needs. UC can be complicated for people to navigate and relies mainly on people managing their own claims. Access to digital systems and limited digital skills is an ongoing issue which the teams help with and signpost to. There is evidence that some are struggling to continue mobile data packages which again limit's ability to access claim information, journals and updates.
- 49. A small fund from the Housing Revenue Account was set up to assist people who live in our homes with basic rental payments due to specifically Covid 19 issues called the Housing Hardship Fund (help with rent arrears only) and this became more flexible throughout 2021 to 2022 as issues increased. The current balance rolled over from 2021/22 to 2022/23 was £14,000 and now stands at £6,000 for the remaining months. We will look to replenish this as part of the ongoing budget process. Part of this fund has been administered by the Local Area Coordinators where early help is needed.
- 50. The Housing Management Team will be piloting new roles from within existing resources to better support people moving into council homes and when people get into difficulties during the rest of their tenancy. We will report on the impact in next year's report.

# **Digital Inclusion**

51. The cost-of-living crisis has continued to highlight the importance of digital inclusion and the inequalities face by those without access. For those residents without IT equipment and/or internet access the following is now more difficult:

- making new or managing benefits claims for vital support.
- accessing online discounts for essential household costs, fuel, insurance, phones, for example.
- shopping online to avoid contact and adhere to social distancing
- connecting with family and friends.
- accessing education, training and employment.
- accessing other help and support from organisations who have moved services online.
- children are unable to undertake schoolwork and other learning.
- 52. The successful York IT Reuse Scheme was developed as a result of the joint work of organisations and services in the city working across a wide spectrum of areas, all identifying a lack of digital access as a barrier to people with complex needs during the pandemic.
- 53. The scheme is funded by the Multiple Complex Needs (MCN) Build Back Better Fund (BBBF) run by the Two Ridings Community Foundation. The scheme is operated through the York Community Furniture Store (CFS).
- 54. To help deliver the scheme CFS have a team of volunteers to:
  - Collect and receive: Develop facilities and a campaign to collect IT equipment, particularly laptops and tablets donated by local people and through partnerships with businesses, schools, universities and other organisations.
  - ii. Refurbishment: Inspect and classify all donations before preparing them for reuse. All data will be eradicated before operating systems and core apps are reinstalled. Devices will be setup to meet the needs of particular user groups. This process will provide volunteering opportunities for people to learn new skills.
  - iii. Reuse: Refurbished devices distributed to deliver social benefit.

    Partners in the scheme will work collaboratively to identify those who would most benefit from the scheme.
- 55. The work of Explore York (library and archives service) in leading digital inclusion in partnership (100% Digital York) with the council, is key in taking this work forward. The initial output from that work includes developing the network of key partners and supporting Digital Champions that are already operating in communities and organisations across the city. A joint action plan has been developed to help identify and tackle areas of digital and social exclusion.
- 56. With CYC funding to create a part time Digital York Partnership Network Co-ordinator the partnership is now able to ensure all the work that is happening across the York area to support digital inclusion is captured and gaps identified. 100% Digital Leeds was recently invited to share

their success and this re-energised the York partnership for what could be achieved.

# Early support pilots

Early Support Fund

- 57. The Early Support Fund is a small fund provided to Local Area Coordinators (LACs) to support residents who we know face additional barriers, such as people with long term health needs, families, older people and single people in private rented accommodation. A key focus is on homelessness and debt prevention, including those in rent and council tax arrears.
- 58. The Early Support Fund can provide a flexible grant to families identified as needing assistance to improve their overall financial position and reduce inequalities created by or exacerbated by the negative effects of the Covid pandemic.
- 59. The fund is being run jointly across Local Area Coordinators, Housing and Communities. A new online application process with the web will go live in September 2022 and will enable other non-CYC partners but not individual residents to be able to apply directly. So far in 22/23 51 grant awards have been made totalling £12,150.
- 60. This grant is one small part of an overall action plan to secure the longer-term financial security, social inclusion and wellbeing of residents. In this way it will contribute to creating resilient citizens and communities. Early Support Grants are not emergency grants. Where there is an emergency situation, applications should be made to York Financial Assistance Scheme.

# **Council Tax Debt Project**

- 61. This is a member approved pilot that supports residents with debt issues at the point of contact through being in Council Tax debt. A dedicated welfare benefits adviser took up post in April 2022 and has completed their training and is now accepting referrals from partner services in CYC and across the city.
- 62. The adviser will support people who are finding it difficult to pay Council Tax and are at risk of arrears and court action, by looking at their whole situation, ensuring people know about and are claiming all support available, maximise their income and reduce outgoings to help them manage their money and finances, including Council Tax payments, in a sustainable way going forward.

- 63. The project is focusing on people who are struggling to meet their payments or have received a first reminder, to try to ensure people are accessing all support available and to try to prevent further recovery action.
- 64. The pilot will test and develop a model of working between advisers and Council Tax, Housing and Benefits services which takes a holistic approach of residents' situations and the support that is available.
- 65. Independent evaluation of the project has been funded through Deciding Together funding programme via Two Ridings Community Foundation. We are working with Healthwatch and the MCN Lived Experience Project to explore the impact of current models and test new ways of working through their current Peer Research project.
- 66. Independent evaluation will also be carried out by Centre for Housing Policy, alongside the project team to map the learning and outcomes of the work; both in terms of specific developments for the Council Tax recovery process and the impact on residents; as well as monitoring and documenting any learning, good practice, difficulties and challenges from this explorative way of working that can be built on in future.

# Other activities funded by Financial Inclusion budgets.

- 67. This section of the report covers other activities funded by the council that have supported financial inclusion during 2021/22 as well as highlighting activity in place for the current year.
- 68. The Financial Inclusion Steering Group (FISG) is responsible for overseeing the delivery of financial inclusion work and has strategic oversight of the council's DHP, YFAS and CTS schemes. Membership continues to expand and now includes York Food Bank joining the York Food Justice Alliance, the Welfare Benefits Unit, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York CVS, York Explore, Citizens Advice York, Community First Credit Union and a number of CYC directorate representatives. There is a standing invitation to a representative of the Parish Councils. The Executive Members for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods, for Finance & Major Projects and for Adult Social Care & Public Health are members of the group.
- 69. The group's purpose is:
  - 'To ensure that local people have the knowledge of and access to appropriate services, allowing them to make more informed choices to achieve and maintain financial stability'.

- 70. The group in recent meetings has been undertaking an impact and needs analysis to inform a short-term Financial Inclusion Strategy update pending the work of the newly formed Poverty Truth Commission in York. The results of this work will be presented to councillors for review and approval in the coming months.
- 71. The group regularly monitors grants awarded to local organisations to deliver projects that meet the group's objectives. For 2022/23 the budget available is £157,726 made up of £150,000 base budget and an underspend of £7,726 from 2021/22.

## Outcomes of projects funded in 2021/22

72. Seven projects were funded for 2021/22. Despite the continuing challenges and constraints of the pandemic all providers were able to maintain the delivery of high levels of support to residents by developing alternative and flexible ways of working with residents. All partners responded swiftly and positively to these challenges by working collaboratively and innovatively to continue to support vulnerable residents in the city. Table 5 below is a high-level summary of what the projects set out to deliver.

Table 5 Financial Inclusion projects funded for 2021/22

| Organisation                              | Project title                                  | Brief Summary   | Amount  |
|---|--|---|---------|
| Older Citizens<br>Advocacy York<br>(OCAY) | Benefits Advocacy                              | To provide advocacy support to help with applications, assessments and appeals                                    | £5,818  |
| Citizens' Advice<br>York                  | Financial Inclusion at GP surgeries            | Continue to develop co-<br>ordinated advice work located<br>in GP practices.                                      | £13,229 |
| Citizens' Advice<br>York                  | Financial Inclusion in the Traveller Community | Working with the Travellers Trust to deliver and co- ordinate advice services to the Gypsy & Traveller community. | £5,385  |
| Peasholme<br>Charity                      | My Money, My Life                              | Continue delivery if its financial capability pathway service   | £25,057 |
| Welfare Benefits<br>Unit                  | Advice Extra                                   | Extend reach of services to underpin first tier advisors in responding to more complex cases.                     | £13,900 |
| Experience<br>Counts                      | 50+ Project                                    | Deliver four employment related programmes to residents aged 50+  | £19,262 |
| Changing Lives                            | Financial & Social<br>Inclusion Worker         | Support vulnerable and hard to reach residents to gain financial independence.                                    | £30,625 |

73. Around 600 residents were directly supported by these projects. Over 1,500 unique benefit issues were handled with a sizeable proportion from those who found themselves reliant on welfare benefits as a result of the economic impacts of Covid-19 particularly those having to claim UC for the first time. Difficulties with the removal of the £20 UC uplift, queries on furlough payments, needing help with making Personal Independence Payments claims and debt all featured strongly in the type of support needed. In addition, as a direct result of some of the project interventions 15 people found employment and 24 took up training or employment opportunities. The nature and extent of the support provided to individual residents varies from project to project (for example, some require a high intensity prolonged one to one package of help whilst others are of a more limited transactional nature) and is reflected in the outcomes reported. Straight comparisons between projects therefore are not always appropriate.

# Funding of projects for 2022/23

74. The bidding round for funding projects for 2022/23 saw eleven bids from nine organisations for grants totalling over £220k, exceeding the £157,726 available. Six of the bids sought to build on projects already funded in 2021/22 and four were from organisations that had not previously bid. Grants totalling £157,726 to fund nine projects for 2022/23 were approved (two were partially funded). All projects will last for twelve months. The table below summarises the projects funded.

Table 6 - Financial Inclusion projects funded for 2022/23

| Organisation                    | Project title                                 | Brief Summary   | Amount   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|----------|
| Blueberry<br>Academy            | Blueberry 50/50 On<br>Line Marketplace        | Run an online market for young people with learning difficulties to manage online sales for recycled/reuse items generating income and acquiring skills from their enterprise activities.                               | £9,000   |
| Experience<br>Counts            | 50+ Project                                   | Deliver four employment related programmes to residents aged 50+.   | £19,320  |
| Changing<br>Lives               | Financial & Social<br>Inclusion Worker        | Support vulnerable and hard to reach residents to gain financial independence.  | £19,479* |
| Refugee<br>Action York<br>(RAY) | Advice & Support –<br>Equal Access for<br>All | In collaboration with CAY provide support to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to access practical support, information and guidance relieve hardship, reduce isolation, advance education and improve integration. | £13,480  |

| Peasholme<br>Charity     | My Money, My Life                                     | Continue delivery of its financial capability pathway service  | £27,543  |
|--------------------------|---|--|----------|
| Citizens'<br>Advice York | Financial Inclusion in the Traveller Community        | Continue project working with the Travellers Trust to deliver and coordinate advice services to the Gypsy & Traveller Community.   | £5,385   |
| Age UK<br>(York)         | Reaching Out to<br>Older People in<br>their Community | Enhance the financial stability of older people (50+) living on a low income, promoting improved health and wellbeing, reducing reliance on other services, and to help retain their independence. | £18,692  |
| IT Reuse                 | IT Reuse project                                      | See paragraphs 43 – 45 above for more information about this scheme.   | £26,864* |
| Welfare<br>Benefits Unit | Advice Extra  | Extend reach of services to underpin first tier advisors in responding to more complex cases.  | £17,299  |

<sup>\*</sup>partially funded

## **Community Hubs**

- 75. In October 2020 a report entitled *Community Hubs Post Covid Recovery* was considered by the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities to assess how CYC could best support York's recovery from the impact of the pandemic. A key strand of this focused on signposting a clear transition from an emergency response to a longer term community approach. Whilst residents who have Covid-19 or are self-isolating will still need support, the council wanted to highlight to residents that they were looking at longer term solutions both for those directly affected by the virus and for those affected by the longer term impacts (and now cost of living impacts) individually and within the community.
- 76. This model emphasises a person centred approach and supports residents through crisis and helps build resilience to prevent future crises. The approach and its ambitions dovetail into work currently taking place in Adult and Children's Social Care and Housing, as well as the voluntary sector, which seeks to emphasise preventative, community asset based approaches to alleviate crises and reduce demand on high cost services.
- 77. There have been a number of organisations showing an interest in offering to be a warm places through the Winter 2022/23 and the Communities team will be working with interested organisations over the coming weeks and months to look at arrangements and support needed alongside work in community hubs.

## **Food Sufficiency**

- 78. The Community Officers for Food and the Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) Programme are both in post and have been visiting food projects and HAF providers to make introductions, gather information for mapping and intelligence on emerging challenges and opportunities. They have been visiting HAF projects together to look at how to connect families to wider food provision and other support and vice versa promoting HAF opportunities to families through food projects. They are also looking at opportunities to develop a pay it forward scheme with local businesses.
- 79. Officers are working with local businesses including shops, cafes and supermarkets to facilitate a shared understanding of the challenges facing communities and in turn map initiatives such as 'pay as you feel' and 'pay it forward' offers. Through building contacts and relationships raising awareness amongst businesses of ways to contribute or donate to community based food and support projects and maximising opportunities for collaboration on an area and city wide basis.
- 80. The aim is to set up an informal network of food project providers as part of the Good Place Network for food groups to share best practice, support each other, give advice, share information on funding etc. plus develop an email newsletter to share useful information widely. This would offer topics such as Food Safety, bid writing, money advice service so groups can develop their knowledge to better support themselves and their customers. The aforementioned mapping exercise feeds into this to make sure that everyone is aware of and has the opportunity to participate in the network.

# 81. Other ongoing work includes:

- Updating and refreshing the Community Food Help pages on Live Well York and use visits to projects to encourage them to add and maintain their information.
- Working with the council's Welfare Benefits and Strategic
  Partnership Manager to encourage and support signposting from
  food aid support to financial support and benefit advice and identify
  potential partners to offer food and fuel vouchers.
- Setting up Twitter to connect with businesses and groups in York, stay up to date with events and networks/wider food picture and share good news stories.
- Working with the Food Safety team to highlight support and information available for food projects.
- Working with colleagues to look at links between food support and minority communities, especially those without recourse to public funds.

- Working with York Learning to look for opportunities to bring foodbased maths activities to community settings.
- Working with North Yorkshire to look at strategic approaches and models elsewhere focussed on securing food sufficiency, and this will be picked up in future reports.

#### **Council Plan**

82. The outcomes in this report contribute to the key Council Plan priority focussed on delivering 'Well-paid jobs and inclusive economy' and the related focus on financial inclusion. The associated Financial Inclusion Policy review will be progressed in 2022 as current activity continues to be prioritised around the impacts of the cost of living crisis.

### **Implications**

- 83. (a) **Financial** The direct financial implications relate to the funding of both FISG bids and the YFAS scheme which are funded within approved budget allocations/reserves.
  - (b) **Human Resources (HR)** There are no implications
  - (c) **Equalities** There are no direct implications of this report.
  - (d) **Legal** The are no implications
  - (e) Crime and Disorder There are no implications
  - (f) Information Technology (IT) There are no implications
  - (g) Property There are no implications

# **Risk Management**

- 84. The key risks are in relation to YFAS, DHP, and other available hardship funds to support residents through what seems likely to be a protracted cost of living crisis and include:
  - Forward planning of ongoing support through future budget processes as well as maximising government support will be key as the expected impacts will exist into the long term.
  - Managing the budget to ensure that customers get the same service and support irrespective of when they apply in the financial year.
  - The pandemic and now the cost of living crisis has impacted on the funding of the council and of our partners in the voluntary and charity sector, so service resilience across all partners needs to be a

- key consideration for decision makers in the short and medium term to protect ongoing service delivery.
- Any failure to provide an appropriate service will have a negative impact on the wellbeing of vulnerable people.
- 85. These risks are managed through constant monitoring and review. The actual figures for UC, YFAS, DHP, Government support schemes and rent arrears are reported to each FISG meeting to allow early intervention.

# Contact Details Author:

# **Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

David Walker Head of Customer & Exchequer Services Tel: 01904 552261 Pauline Stuchfield Assistant Director Customer & Digital Services Tel No.01904 551706

John Madden Strategic Manager Corporate Strategy & City Partnerships Tel No.01904 551132

Susan Wood Welfare Benefits & Strategic Partnership Manager Tel No.01904 553564 **Report Approved** √

**Date** 24/08/2022

# Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

✓ All

#### **Annexes:**

Annex A - YFAS Statistics

Annex B - Food & Fuel Voucher Statistics

Annex C - Universal Credit Statistics June 22

# **Background Papers:**

Approval of 2022/23 FI Awards (Executive Member for Finance & Performance 16/3/22):

https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=875&Mld=1266

#### **List of Abbreviations**

BBBF Build Back Better Fund CAY Citizen's Advice York

CFS Community Furniture Store

CTS Council Tax Support

CVS Council for Voluntary Services

CYC City of York Council

DD Direct Debits
DI Digital Inclusion

DHP Discretionary Housing Payment
DWP Department for Work and Pensions
FISG Financial Inclusion Steering Group

HB Housing Benefit

IT Information Technology

k Thousand LWY Live Well York

MCN Multiple Complex Needs

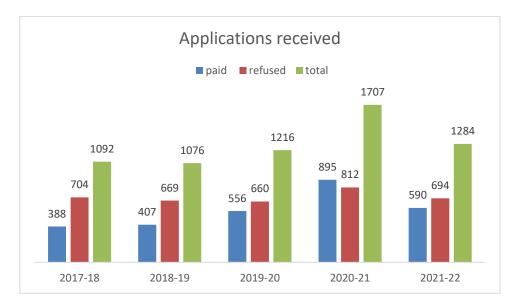
UC Universal Credit

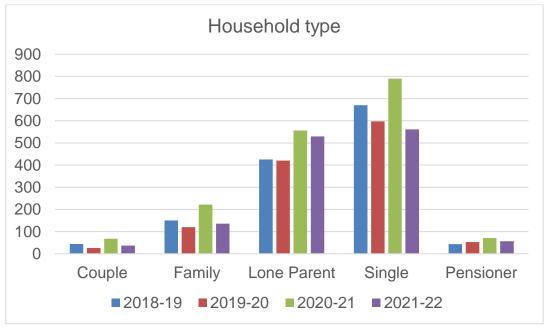
YFAS York Financial Assistance Scheme

**Annex A** 

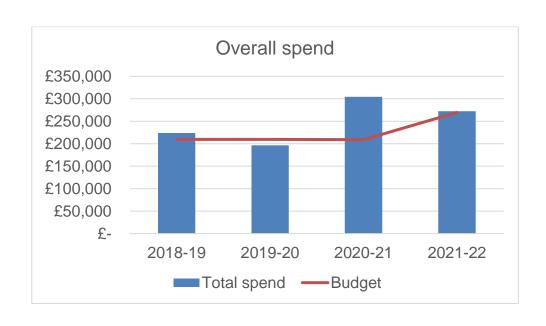
# Discretionary Financial Support Summary Report April 2022 York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS)

Total number of applications processed during financial year.





Page 26



# Main reasons given for application

% Applications

| 70 / Application 10            |         |         |         |         |  |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
|                                | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |  |
| Exceptional pressures          | 19.2    | 18.9    | 29.9    | 23.2    |  |
| No food                        | 5.5     | 7.6     | 15.6    | 13.4    |  |
| Emergency                      | 11.7    | 9.4     | 11      | 13.3    |  |
| Vouchers                       | 3.9     | 4.6     | 9.5     | 9.4     |  |
| Resettlement - homeless        | 9.7     | 8.1     | 7.8     | 10.4    |  |
| Stay in the community          | 10      | 4       | 6       | 8.2     |  |
| Fuel                           | 7.3     | 10      | 16.9    | 8.9     |  |
| Resettlement - other           | 7.1     | 8.4     | 3.9     | 6.0     |  |
| Unknown                        | 0       | 14      | 3.9     |         |  |
| Repair                         | 2.9     | 3.8     | 1.8     | 2.6     |  |
| Debt                           | 3.3     | 2.8     | 1.5     | 1.0     |  |
| Expenses                       | 0.4     | 0.2     | 0.9     | 0.9     |  |
| Disaster                       | 0.4     | 0.2     | 8.0     | 0.6     |  |
| Benefit delay/Universal Credit | 18.6    | 8.6     | 0.9     | 24.6    |  |
| Prison                         |         |         |         | 0.4     |  |
| Other                          |         |         |         | 0.2     |  |

# Grant amounts awarded

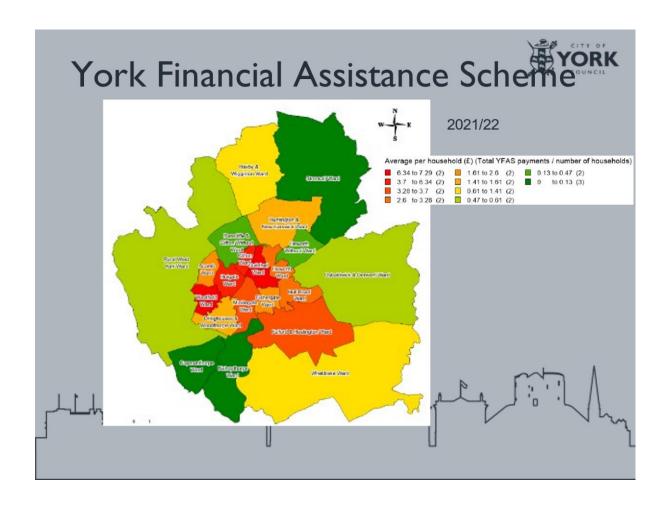
|               | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Average award | £396    | £352    | £455    | £172    | £447    |
| Lowest award  | £20     | £23     | £20     | £10     | £15     |
| Highest award | £193    | £1,961  | £1,961  | £2,324  | £2,522  |

# Items awarded

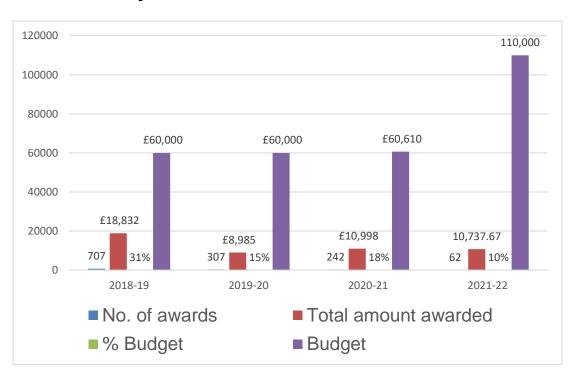
|                       | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Bed                   | 43      | 45      | 31      | 66      | 40      |
| Bedding               | 2       | 7       | 0       | 0       | 6       |
| Clothing              | 98      | 4       | 3       | 17      | 1       |
| Cooker                | 63      | 36      | 55      | 91      | 19      |
| Curtains              | 30      | 10      | 18      | 21      | 6       |
| Floor cover           | 48      | 36      | 36      | 37      | 33      |
| Fridge                | 37      | 30      | 51      | 69      | 29      |
| Large fridge          | 20      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 7       |
| Fuel                  | 189     | 67      | 100     | 46      | 33      |
| Kitchen pk1           | 50      | 79      | 55      | 73      | 79      |
| Kitchen pk3           | 2       | 4       | 5       | 3       | 3       |
| Microwave             | 10      | 2       | 0       | 1       | 4       |
| Removal               | 4       | 2       | 8       | 2       | 0       |
| Repair                | 7       | 2       | 1       | 2       | 0       |
| Resettlement packages | 69      | 126     | 162     | 145     | 109     |
| Sofa /chair           | 9       | 9       | 15      | 26      | 9       |
| Supermarket vouchers  | 337     | 134     | 244     | 451     | 122     |
| Table/ chair          | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Travel cost           | 26      | 0       | 7       | 13      | 0       |
| Wardrobe              | 9       | 8       | 21      | 25      | 8       |
| Washer                | 38      | 37      | 39      | 55      | 29      |
| Grand total           | 1092    | 638     | 851     | 1143    |         |

# Requests for decisions to be reviewed

|                     | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Decision overturned | 27      | 41      | 23      | 18      |         |
| Decision upheld     | 62      | 36      | 23      | 19      |         |
| Total received      | 89      | 77      | 46      | 37      |         |



# **Discretionary Council Tax Reduction**



# **Discretionary Housing Payment**

The council received £231k in government funding for DHPs for 2021/22 in order to help with housing costs and has additional CYC budget of £27k in reserve. ??? DHP's were awarded, totalling £21,377. All the government allocation was spent plus an additional amount of CYC funding.

|                  | 2019/20  |      | 2020/21 |      | 2021/22 |
|------------------|----------|------|---------|------|---------|
| Total DHP Fund   | £        | 100% | £       |      | £       |
| available        | 237,097  |      | 324,923 | 100% | 231,377 |
| Amount spent     | £        | 89%  | £       | 92%  | £       |
|                  | 211,835  |      | 298,252 |      | 231,377 |
| Amount remaining | £ 25,262 | 11%  | £26,671 | 8%   | £0      |



Annex B Food & Fuel Voucher Statistics

# CYC Fuel Voucher Scheme Dec 21 – 31 March 22

|                               | Credit bill /direct debit | Pre-<br>payment<br>meter | Total no. of vouchers |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Single person household £28   | 26                        | 76                       | 102                   |
| Multiple person household £49 | 37                        | 111                      | 148                   |
| No of households              | 63                        | 187                      | 250                   |
| Total spend                   |                           |                          | £16,386               |

# CYC Fuel Voucher Scheme Quarter 1 April 22 – June 22

|                               | Credit<br>bill<br>/direct<br>debit | Pre-<br>payment<br>meter | Total no. of vouchers |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Single person household £28   | 34                                 | 126                      | 160                   |
| Multiple person household £49 | 55                                 | 205                      | 260                   |
| No of households              | 89                                 | 331                      | 420                   |
| Total spend                   | £4,021                             | £14,963                  | £18,984               |

# CYC Food Voucher Scheme Quarter 1 April 22 – June 22

| Supermarket voucher              | No of vouchers | Cost of vouchers |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Single person household £30      | 40             | £1,200           |
| 2 -5 person household <b>£60</b> | 44             | £2,640           |
| 6 plus person household £100     | 32             | £3,200           |
| Grand Total                      | 116            | £7,040           |



# City of York Council



# Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit Claimants

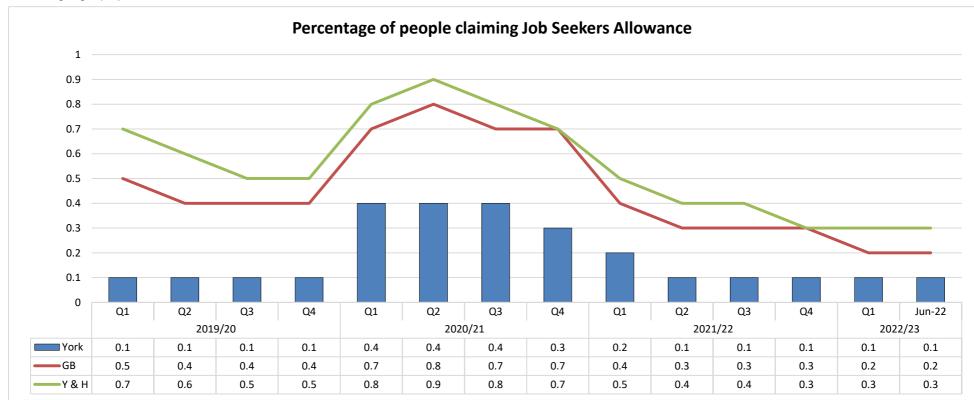
**June 2022** 

### Job Seekers Allowance

### June 2022

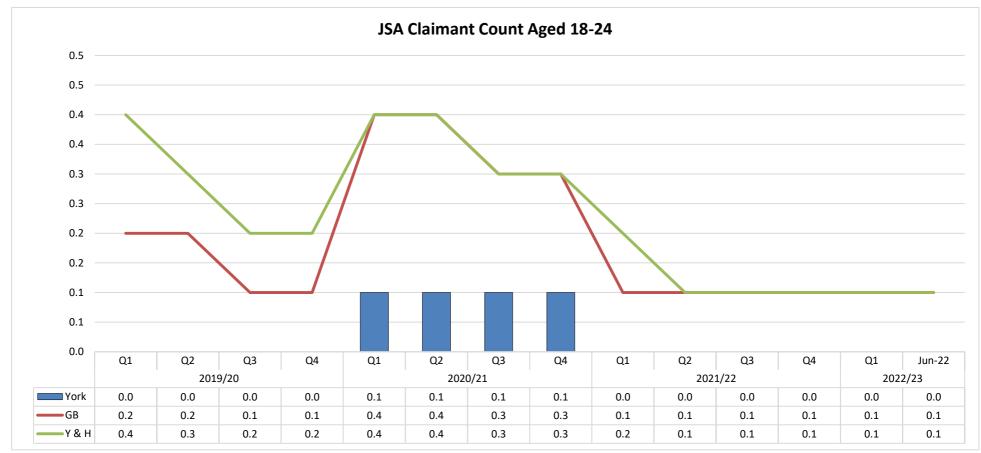
### York overall picture:

- The JSA claimant count for York in June 2022 is 155.
- In March 2020 the figure was 185, which is a decrease of 16.2%.
- This represents 0.1% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 0.3% and GB at 0.2%.
- The highest JSA claimant count in York in the past 10 years (from June 2012) is from February 2012 with a figure of 3,675 or 2.8% of the working age population.



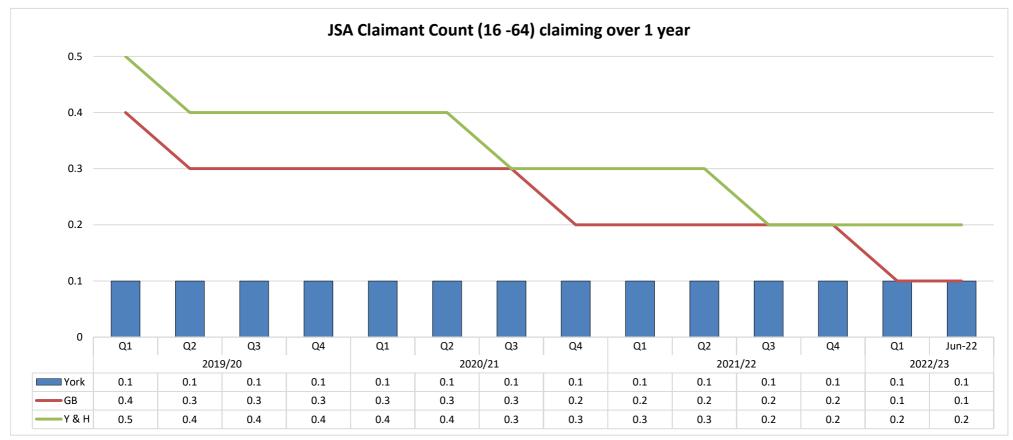
### JSA Claimants 18 - 24 years old

- In June 2022 the total number of claimants (18-24) stood at 10, an increase of 5 from March 2020.
- This represents 0.0% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 0.1% and GB at 0.1%.



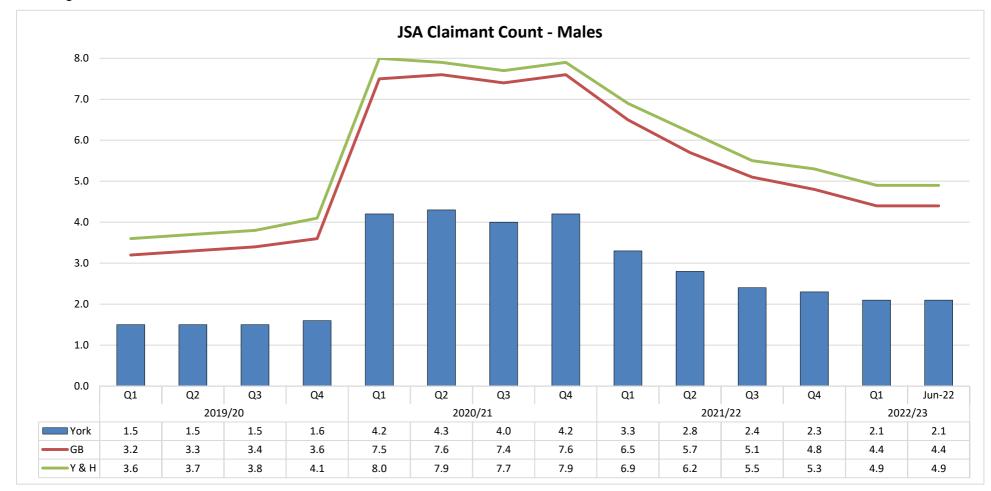
### JSA Claimaints out of work for over one year

- Claimants out of work for over one year, showed no change from last month, 20 less than one year ago a 21.1% decrease.
- This represents 0.1% of the working age population who were out of work for over 1 year.
- The region stands at 0.2% and GB at 0.1%.



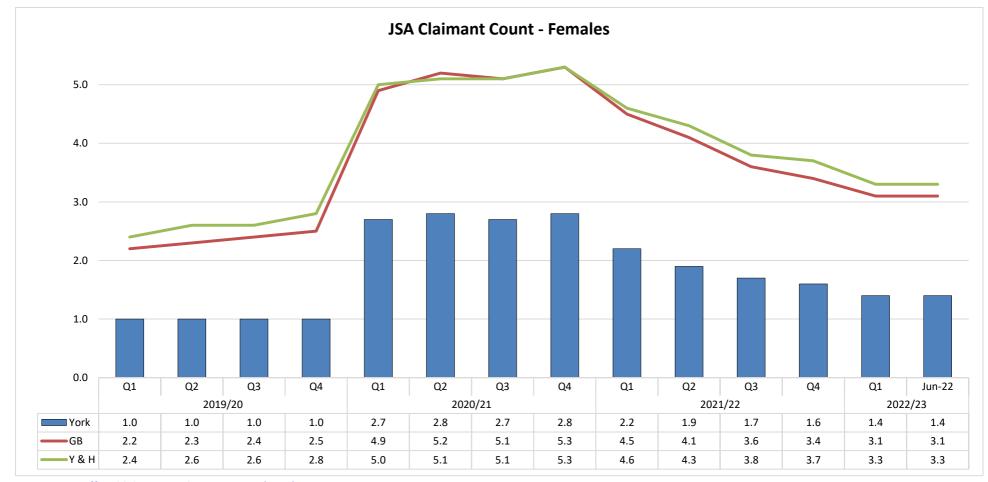
### **JSA Male Claimant Count**

- Male Claimants have decreased by 10 from last month, totalling 100, 40 less than one year ago a 28.6% decrease.
- This represents 2.1 % of the male working age population.
- The region stands at 4.9% and GB at 4.4%.



### **JSA Female Claimants**

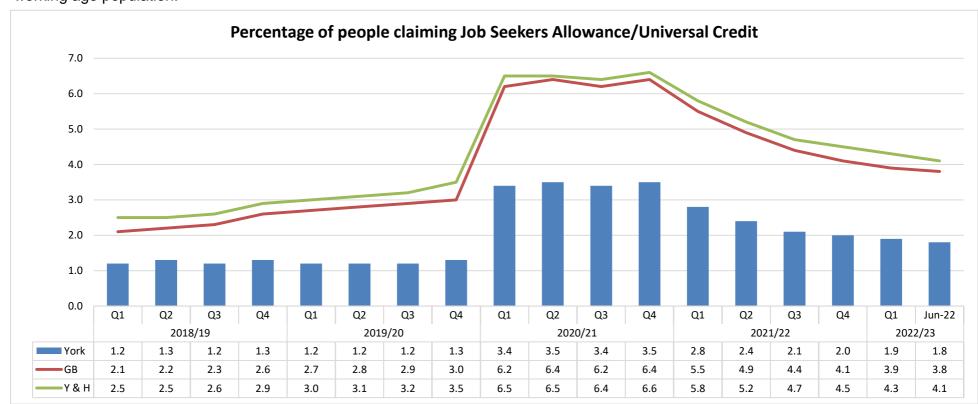
- Female Claimants have decreased by 5 from last month, totalling 55, 60 less than one year ago a 52.2% decrease.
- This represents 1.4 % of the female working age population.
- The region stands at 3.3% and GB at 3.1%.



#### June 2022

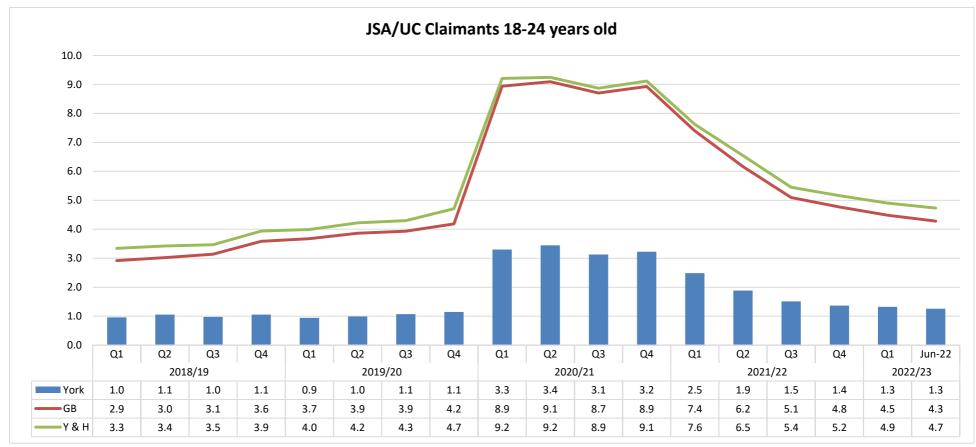
### York Jobseekers Allowance/Universal Credit overall picture:

- The JSA/UC claimant count for York in June 2022 is 2,480.
- In May 2020 the figure was 5060, this is a decrease of 2580 (51.0%) since May 2020.
- This represents 1.8% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 4.1% and GB at 3.8%.
- The highest JSA/UC claimant count in York in the past 4 years (from June 2018) is from August 2020 with a figure of 5,080 or 3.6% of the working age population.



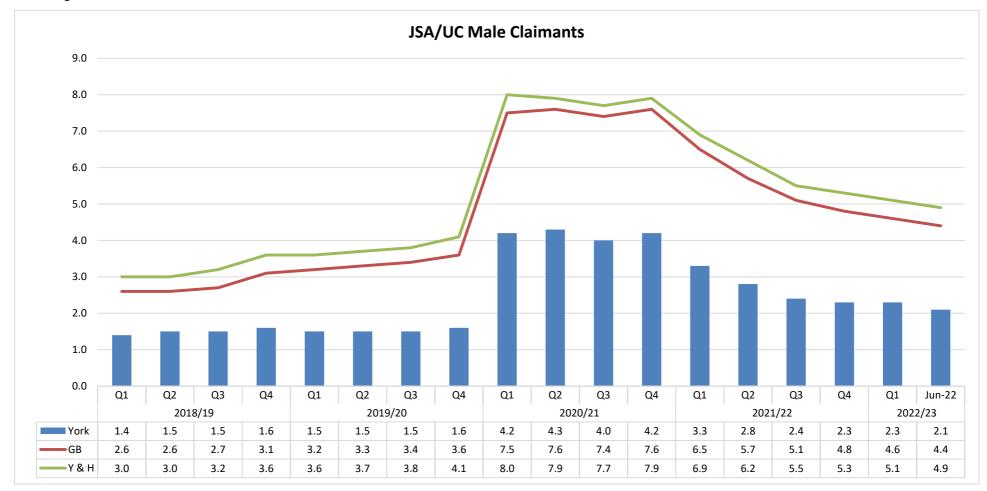
### JSA/UC Claimants 18 - 24 years old

- In June 2022 the total number of claimants (18-24) stood at 400, a reduction of 10 (a 2.4% decrease) from May 2022.
- This represents 1.3% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 4.7% and GB at 4.3%.



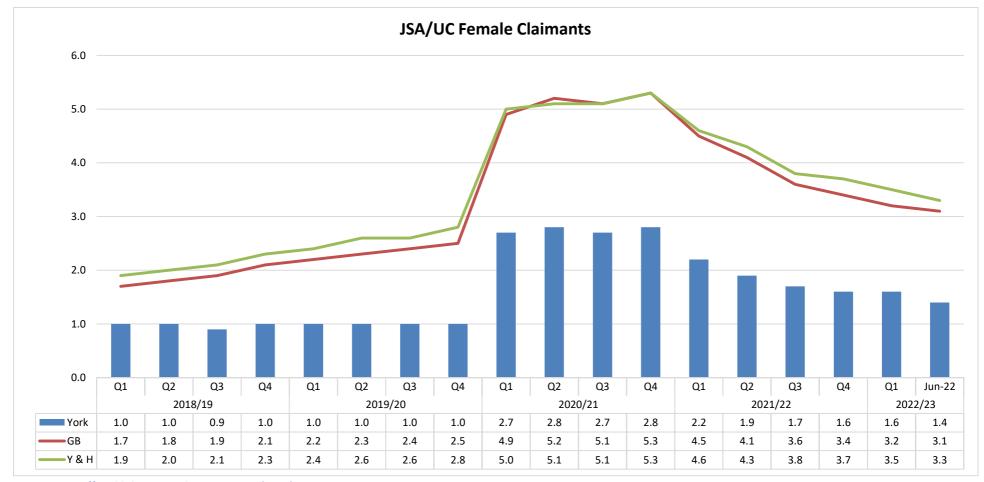
### **JSA/UC Male Claimant Count**

- Male Claimants have decreased by 40 from last month, totalling 1,470, 1,505 less than one year ago a 50.6% decrease.
- This represents 2.1 % of the male working age population.
- The region stands at 4.9% and GB at 4.4%.



### **JSA/UC Female Claimants**

- Female Claimants have decreased by 20 from last month, totalling 1,010, 965 less than one year ago a 48.9% decrease.
- This represents 1.4 % of the female working age population.
- The region stands at 3.3% and GB at 3.1%.



#### **York Wards**

Below are the claimant count for Wards comparing the latest available data with the previous month and the previous year.

Job Seekers Allowance And Universal Credit Claimants - Ward Analysis (Jun 2022)

### Total JSA and U/C Claimants

|                             |      | JOA and O/O Clair |          |     |      |      |
|-----------------------------|------|-------------------|----------|-----|------|------|
| Ward                        | June | 2022              | May 2022 |     | June | 2021 |
| Westfield                   | 3.7  | 325               | 4.0      | 350 | 5.4  | 475  |
| Heworth                     | 2.6  | 260               | 2.6      | 260 | 3.7  | 375  |
| Clifton                     | 2.4  | 170               | 2.6      | 180 | 4.1  | 290  |
| Holgate                     | 2.2  | 190               | 2.2      | 185 | 3.9  | 335  |
| Acomb                       | 2.1  | 115               | 2.0      | 115 | 3.0  | 170  |
| Micklegate                  | 2.0  | 190               | 2.0      | 185 | 3.1  | 295  |
| Guildhall                   | 1.9  | 290               | 1.8      | 275 | 2.7  | 410  |
| Huntington & New Earswick   | 1.7  | 125               | 2.0      | 145 | 2.8  | 205  |
| Dringhouses & Woodthorpe    | 1.6  | 110               | 1.7      | 115 | 2.6  | 180  |
| Hull Road                   | 1.4  | 165               | 1.3      | 160 | 2.0  | 250  |
| Heworth Without             | 1.4  | 30                | 1.4      | 30  | 1.8  | 40   |
| Rawcliffe & Clifton Without | 1.3  | 100               | 1.4      | 105 | 2.3  | 185  |
| Fulford & Heslington        | 1.3  | 30                | 1.4      | 35  | 1.6  | 40   |
| Copmanthorpe                | 1.3  | 30                | 1.1      | 25  | 1.6  | 35   |
| Bishopthorpe                | 1.2  | 25                | 1.4      | 30  | 1.9  | 40   |
| Strensall                   | 1.1  | 55                | 1.2      | 60  | 1.8  | 90   |
| Osbaldwick & Derwent        | 1.1  | 55                | 1.2      | 60  | 2.1  | 100  |
| Fishergate                  | 1.1  | 95                | 1.1      | 100 | 1.8  | 155  |
| Haxby & Wigginton           | 1.0  | 60                | 1.0      | 60  | 1.7  | 100  |
| Rural West York             | 0.9  | 40                | 1.1      | 50  | 2.2  | 95   |
| Wheldrake                   | 0.7  | 15                | 0.7      | 15  | 1.5  | 35   |

Source: nomis - official labour market statistics (ONS)

Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

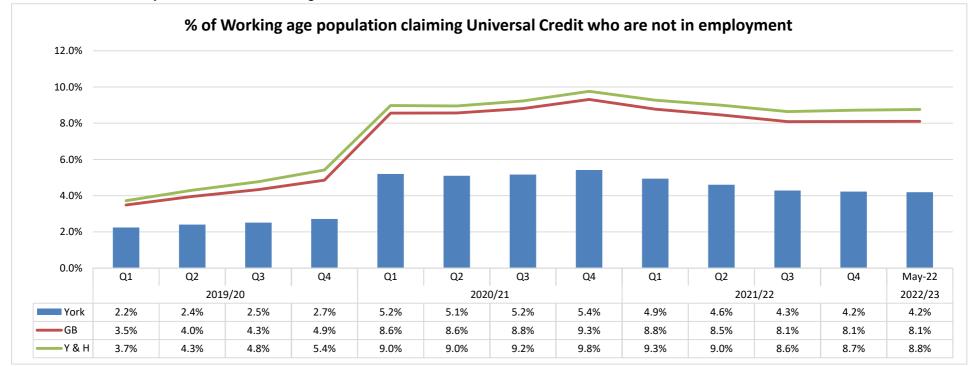
### Job Seekers Allowance

### **Universal Credit Claimants**

The JSA figures should be viewed in the context of the number of people receiving Universal Credit in York increasing from 11,054 in May to 11,184 in June. Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseekers Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

Of which, in May, 5,823 were not in employment. The figures will not be released until next month.

On 12 July 2017 Universal Credit became available to parents and couples in the York area, until this date Universal Credit was only available to single job seekers in the area. From November 2019 the provisional figures will show the total of those claiming Universal Credit. A breakdown will only be shown when the figures are revised.



Source: nomis - official labour market statistics (ONS)

Following the introduction of Universal Credit, the claimant count takes into account:

- people claiming contribution JSA (this is not affected by the introduction of Universal Credit)
- the figures for Universal Credit are provisional for the current month and may be revised in the next update.



### **Decision Session – Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects**

12 September 2022

Report of the Director of Housing Economy and Regeneration

### Levelling Up Fund Submissions – My City Centre Regeneration Bid, and Haxby Rail Station Transport Bid

### **Summary**

- 1. This report follows the Executive decision in June 2022 to submit 2 bids to the second round of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF).
- 2. The report formally records the subsequent decision (of the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects, as delegated by the Executive), to submit the bids. The report also sets out the final bid compositions.

### Recommendations

- The Executive Member is asked to:
  - Formally note the decision (of the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Performance) to submit two LUF bids.
    - Reason: To comply with the constitutional requirements of the Council, and resolutions of the Executive.
  - 2) Formally note the final LUF bid compositions as set out in the report.

Reason: To comply with the resolutions of the Executive Committee, confirm the final bid compositions that were submitted to government, and ensure public transparency of decision making and activity.

### **Background**

- 4. The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) was announced in the 2020 Spending Review and is a £4.8bn competitive fund run by the UK Government to invest in infrastructure across the UK.
- 5. Levelling Up is a key agenda for the UK Government who released the Levelling Up White Paper on 2 February 2022. This sets out 12 Missions whose delivery the government is prioritising to help create more equal opportunities across the UK by 2030. The white paper also sets out funding sources available to support the delivery of these missions, including LUF.
- 6. The first round of LUF allocations awarded £1.7 billion to support the delivery of 105 projects across the UK. York submitted a regeneration bid to this round in summer 2021, and whilst this was ultimately unsuccessful, the regeneration team received very positive feedback on the bid from the department for levelling up housing and communities (DLUHC) and were encouraged to resubmit the proposals with amendments into round 2.
- 7. The second round of the LUF was announced as part of the delivery of the 12 Levelling Up Missions. The prospectus was released on the 23 March 2022, setting out key investment themes and eligibility requirements for the next round of capital funding applications. This remained a competitive bidding process, with local authorities being placed in priority tiers for funding based on the government's perception of Levelling Up need. York being a tier 3 authority, the lowest of the priority areas.
- 8. York was able to submit up to three bids to this funding round, and the strategic direction was established to submit a transport bid alongside the revised regeneration bid. This approach was designed to optimise chances of success in securing funding for the City, within the funds technical and other parameters.
- 9. At their meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the Executive endorsed this approach and committed the local authority to submitting two bids to the second round of LUF, formally resolving:
  - (iii) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Major Projects, to submit the round two funding bids identified in this report to the LUF.

Reason: To allow officers to prepare and submit the strongest possible bids to Government...

(iv) That it be noted that a report setting out the final bid submissions will be brought to a future decision session of the Executive Member for Finance and *Major Projects*.

Reason: To confirm the final bid compositions submitted to Government.

10. With the funding submission deadline of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022, and the complex and extensive bid documents being worked on right up to this time, the delegated approvals referred to at iii) above were secured very close to the submission point. With no August meeting of the Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects Decision Session, a forward plan item was submitted instead for this September meeting, being the earliest opportunity to formally record the decision to submit, and to report the final bid compositions, as per executive approvals.

### **Submitted Bid Composition**

11. In terms of bid composition, because the funding programme is a competitive and ongoing one, and some information within bids is commercially sensitive, high level bid composition summary details are set out over the following paragraphs. The regeneration bid, revised from round 1 submission, was designed to constitute a first capital phase of the My City Centre Vision adopted by Executive in November 2021 (see background papers), comprising three transformative city centre projects, which together will realise many of the vision's objectives and act as a catalyst for further change. The transport bid sought additional funding to deliver an improved Haxby Rail Station, with better sustainability credentials and accessibility. A more detailed description of the bid components is firstly provided in table 1 below:

Table 1: Physical Composition of bids

| Sub project/ component | Description  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Regeneration Bid       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Castle & Eye of York   | Financial contribution to delivery of new world class public realm on the site of Castle Carpark at Castle & Eye of York, as defined within planning application 22/00209/FULM.                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Riverside Quarter      | Financial contribution to delivery of public realm/ walkway and third sector occupier fitout both proposed as part of redevelopment of area between 19 Coney Street and 2 Spurriergate                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parliament Street      | Renewing and improving public realm in Parliament Street and St<br>Sampson's Square to provide accessible, attractive and fit for purpose<br>spaces, to include investment in play equipment and Shambles Market |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transport Bid          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Haxby Station          | Improved sustainable transport access to the new station, from Haxby, Wigginton and Strensall. This includes improved walking and cycling routes and road safety improvements.                                   |  |  |  |  |  |

12. The core LUF financial ask and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) across the bids and sub projects/ components are set out in table 2 below:

Table 2: Financial/ Economic Composition of bids

| Sub project/ component | LUF Ask  | BCR  |
|------------------------|----------|------|
| Regeneration Bid       |          |      |
| Castle & Eye of York   | £11.478m | 3.69 |
| Riverside Quarter      | £2.812m  | 2.86 |
| Parliament Street      | £5.704m  | 2.53 |
| Combined               | £19.994m | 3.23 |
| Transport Bid          |          |      |
| Haxby Station          | £4.947m  | 1.86 |

13. And finally, a summary of the levelling up missions against which the bids will deliver is set out in table 3 below:

Table 3: Policy Composition of bids

|                            |                  | Levelling Up Mission   |                             |                         |           |        |        |           |                   |         |       |                     |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|-------------------|---------|-------|---------------------|
| Bid/ Project/<br>component | Living standards | Research & Development | Transport<br>Infrastructure | Digital<br>Connectivity | Education | Skills | Health | Wellbeing | Pride in<br>Place | Housing | Crime | Local<br>Leadership |
| Regeneration<br>Bid        | X                |                        | X                           |                         | X         | X      | X      | X         | X                 | X       | X     | X                   |
| Castle & Eye               | Χ                |                        | Χ                           |                         |           |        | Χ      | Χ         | Χ                 | Χ       | Χ     | Χ                   |
| Riverside Qtr              | Χ                |                        | Χ                           |                         | Χ         | Χ      | Χ      | Χ         | Χ                 | Χ       |       | Χ                   |
| Parliament St              | Χ                |                        | Χ                           |                         |           |        | Χ      | Χ         | Χ                 | Χ       | Χ     | Χ                   |
| Transport Bid              |                  |                        |                             |                         |           |        |        |           |                   |         |       |                     |
| Haxby Stn                  |                  |                        | Χ                           |                         |           |        | Χ      | Χ         | Χ                 |         |       |                     |

### Consultation

14. Officers engaged with a wide range of stakeholders during the bid preparation process, to explore opportunities and synergies as part of the application process. Many city and region stakeholders also submitted formal letters of support for the bid, with priority support provided by both the York Outer and York Inner MPs. The July Executive report previously referenced was also subject of standard constitutional publicity and consultation activity. In addition to this bid level consultation, the individual projects forming the funding bids have also been developed through extensive consultation as summarised in the paragraphs below.

### 15. My City Centre (Regeneration Bid)

The LUF projects constitute a first capital phase of the 10 year 'My City Centre' vision, adopted in November 2021. The vision was co-created through extensive public/ stakeholder engagement over a number of years, with delivery owned by the council and key partners who came together to form a project Stakeholder Group. Engagement followed an 'open brief' approach, optimising the breadth and depth of engagement on complex city issues. The open brief approach, developed at Castle Gateway, is summarised in more detail below.

The vision had extremely high levels of public approval, with 82% of people agreeing with the vision statement, and strong support across all of the proposed action areas - averaging 81% approval. Only four action areas had less than 60% of respondents in support, with even the lowest at 55%.

The Individual projects will also be subject to further 'open brief' engagement as they are developed in more detail, building on those networks and relationships established. Riverside Quarter proposals at Coney Street are currently in pre-planning stage, with public engagement following shortly.

### 16. Castle & Eye of York (Regeneration Bid)

The Castle and Eye of York public realm is the centre-piece of the Castle Gateway regeneration, developed through extensive public engagement and through the Castle Gateway Advisory Group. The result is an exciting masterplan that has extensive support.

'My Castle Gateway' was a bold and innovative new approach to public consultation, ensuring the public were engaged from the very beginning of the process by developing an 'open brief' for the masterplanners, and exploring challenges and barriers collaboratively through open conversations.

The project used a wide range of approaches to engage with the public including social media with Facebook, twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to generate creative content, stimulate online debate, and reach across a broad demographic. There have been a range of events, walks, and talks hosted by a diverse mix from formal partners such as Historic England through to midnight walks with homeless people. Every single interaction has been captured, recorded, tagged and made publically available on the project Flickr account to ensure that every opinion counts.

The Advisory Group is formed of key stakeholders to help guide the project and provide a robust critical challenge. Advisory Group members spoke in support of both the Phase 1 planning applications, and have contributed to this bid, highlighting the significant positive impact the scheme will have.

### 17. Haxby Station (Transport Bid)

Wide ranging public consultation exercises were undertaken in relation to the proposed Haxby Station in 2020 and more recently in 2022. The detailed station proposals will also be subject to further statutory consultation as they are developed.

Consultation undertaken to date has indicated clear support for active travel links to the proposed new station. In the most recent survey, results demonstrated that there would be a high desire from residents to travel to the station by sustainable modes: Of the 862 respondents who answered the question, 57% of respondents said they would walk to the station, 30% would cycle, and 45% would travel by bus (respondents were asked to select all applicable methods). The need for improved active travel routes is also apparent when respondents were asked for comments regarding the draft layout of the station. Numerous requests indicated a wish for improved pedestrian routes to the station to ensure it is accessible (this was the fourth most frequent free text comment from 1,200 responses), with the added benefit that improved pedestrian links would also benefit the wider community.

Requests for improved cycle links to the station were also captured, as well as requests to ensure the station has suitable cycle parking to meet demand. This demonstrates the aspiration of local residents to undertake journeys on foot or bicycle to access the station. In addition, a number of requests were raised regarding the provision of EV charging at the station.

### Council Plan

- 18. Securing external funding and delivering the proposals outlined above will support a number of outcomes outlined in the Council Plan 2019- 2023:
  - Well-paid Jobs and an Inclusive Economy The proposals with supporting hard hit retail, leisure and tourism sectors to recover from COVID 19, whilst diversifying the high street to benefit York's economy,

and support lowest paid sectors, alongside longer term plans to facilitate growth in higher value sectors.

- A Greener and Cleaner City Investment in pedestrian and cycling provision and new and improved open spaces in the river corridors will help to create a greener and cleaner city.
- Getting around Sustainably The proposals create new cycling and walking infrastructure to encourage active travel in and around the city enhanced public transport facilities, and enhancing sustainable transport across modes.
- Creating Homes and World-class Infrastructure the proposals will transform public realm in key city centre locations and provide a world class events space that improves the setting of York's historic monuments and buildings, enhance and upgrade local road networks
- Safe Communities and Culture for All The proposals will improve existing and create new spaces across the city centre for cultural activation and community activity.

### **Implications**

- 19. The implications of submitting the bid to secure funding to deliver capital works were set out and considered by members as part of the original June 2022 Executive Paper (see background papers).
- Financial LUF bids require a minimum of 10% CYC contribution to the project costs. The council has budgets already in the capital programme to support the various bids including the Castle Gateway Scheme, Haxby Station scheme and Highway budgets which can be used to contribute towards the levelling up bids. There should therefore not be any additional budgets required if successful. Should the bid be successful a detailed funding package will need to be considered by Executive.
- · Human Resources (HR) none
- Equalities The development of proposals is subject to funding and will need to take into account the Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it in the exercise of a public authority's functions) An equalities Impact assessment was undertaken as part of the June Executive report show as a background paper

- Legal The projects in the application for the second round of the LUF are largely the same as in Round One, but with the removal of the proposals in relation to the rear of the Castle Museum. In relation to the Riverside Quarter project officers will continue to work with the private sector riverside property owners to shape the emerging riverside walkway proposals and negotiate any necessary commercial relationships with neighbouring landowners and developers. Care needs to be given in developing the relationship between the Council and the private sector riverside property owners to ensure this remains in accordance with public sector procurement legislation. The application for the transport orientated bid to the LUF is in relation to Haxby Station, specifically the improvement of active travel and sustainable connectivity. Should the application(s) to the LUF be successful the Council will develop procurement strategies to ensure the funding is used compliantly in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and subsidy control requirements (previously known as State aid). Any commercial arrangements around the associated development scheme would need to be framed to ensure best value requirements are met. Legal Services officers will work closely with project officers to ensure compliance with public sector procurement legislation and to consider the subsidy control implications of the funding of the individual projects.
- Crime and Disorder Input from the designing out crime officer will be sought as designs progress subject to securing funding
- Information Technology (IT) none
- Property- none until funding secured

### Risk Management

- 20. Both internal and external resource is required to prepare any bid for external funding. This work has been undertaken at risk and should the bid be unsuccessful this work is mostly abortive. This risk has been mitigated by only submitting two bids to the LUF, instead of working up a third bid from scratch. The positive feedback received on the round one bid and the relatively small amount of work required to update and resubmit this bid, coupled with the size of the opportunity, offsets this risk.
- 21. Successful bids need CYC contribution funding, which can be evidenced through existing proposed funding strategies. Should the LUF bids be successful, a report will be brought back to Executive to take the decision whether to accept the funding and proceed with the delivery of the projects.

### Contact Details

| Author:  | Chief Officer Responsible for the report   |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Author's name Ben Murphy Title Regeneration Programme Manager Dept Name Regeneration | Chief Officer's name Tracey Carter Title Director Housing Economy & Regeneration |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Tel No.</b> 01904 551415  | Report Value 2/9/22 Approved   |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Specialist Implications Officer  | r(s)   |  |  |  |  |
| Financial:- Patrick Looker Finance Legal - Cathryn Moore Legal Ma                    | anager - Projects  |  |  |  |  |
| Wards Affected: Micklegate, Guildhall, Haxby & Wiggington, Strensall]                |  |  |  |  |  |
| For further information please   | contact the author of the report   |  |  |  |  |
| Background Papers:   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16.6.2022 Levelling Up and UK Annexes (Agenda Item 5)                                | Shared Prosperity Executive Report and   |  |  |  |  |
| 18.11.2021 My City Centre Visio<br>(Agenda Item 52)                                  | on Adoption Executive Report and Annexes   |  |  |  |  |
| Annexes  |  |  |  |  |  |
| None   |  |  |  |  |  |
| List of Abbreviations Used in  | this Report  |  |  |  |  |
| BCR (Benefit Cost Ratio) DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up Fund)                    | ng Up Housing & Communities)   |  |  |  |  |





12 September 2022

### **Decision Session – Executive Member for Finance and Performance**

Report of the Director of Housing, Economy & Regeneration.

## Application for Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act 2011 Summary

1. This report details an application to list Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn, York as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), for consideration by the Council. The application has been received from Naburn Parish Council.

### Recommendations

2. The Executive Member is asked to consider the officer recommendation to:

Approve the renewal of the listing of Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn, York, as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) for the reasons outlined within this report.

Reason: To ensure the Council meets its legislative requirements

of the Localism Act 2011 and promotes community

access to community facilities.

### **Background**

- 3. The application has been received, for a decision by the Executive Member in the Council's statutory capacity as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing authority.
- 4. The freehold of the site is owned by Marston's Pubs Limited. The Blacksmiths Arms was previously entered on the Council's list of ACV property on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 following an earlier ACV nomination received on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Pursuant to Section 87(3) of the Localism Act 2011 land/property must be removed from the ACV list

- after 5 years from date of listing. This application is a request to readd the site onto the Council's AVC list (for a further period of 5 years).
- 5. The purpose behind these provisions is to ensure that property (land and building) assets which are currently used to the benefit of the local communities are not disposed of without the local community being given a fair opportunity to bid for these assets when they are put on the open market. This right is not simply to accommodate 'public assets' but also private assets, the test is whether such assets are viewed as 'assets of community value'. These assets therefore could be currently owned by the public, private or voluntary sector.
- 6. The definition of 'land of community value' is set out in section 88 of the Localism Act 2011. To be considered as an asset of community value the land or property must satisfy either of the following criteria:
  - a. 88(1) an actual current non-ancillary use of the building or other land furthers the well-being or social interests of the community and whether it is realistic to think that there can continue to be non-ancillary use of the building or other land which will further (whether or not in the same way) the social well-being or social interests of the local community

OR

- b. 88(2) there is a time in the recent past when an actual non-ancillary use of the building or other land furthered the social well-being or social interests of the local community and it is realistic to think that there is a time within the next 5 years when there could be non-ancillary use (whether or not the same use as before) that would further the social well-being or social interests of the local community
- 7. There is no exhaustive list of what is considered to be an asset of community value but cultural, recreational and sporting interests are included. Excluded specifically are residential type properties (such as hotels, housing in multiple occupation and residential caravan sites) and operational land of statutory undertakers.

### The process

8. The regulations set out how potential assets can be listed which in brief are as follows:

- Nomination this can be by a voluntary or community body with a local connection. This includes parish councils, neighbourhood forums, charities, community interest groups but excludes public or local authorities (except parish councils).
- Consideration the local authority have 8 weeks to make the decision. Under the Council's procedures the Executive member is the decision maker. If the nomination is successful the asset details are entered onto the 'Community Value list' see further details in the report and also the local land charges register. If unsuccessful then the details are entered onto an 'unsuccessful nominations' list for a period of 5 years to prevent repeat nominations. The owner can request a review of the decision which must be completed within 8 weeks and the owner can further appeal within 28 days of the review outcome to a Tribunal. Neither the Localism Act nor the ACV Regulations give the nominating organisation any right to appeal a decision of the local authority that the nominated property is not an asset of community value/does not satisfy the necessary S.88 criteria referred to above.
- **Disposal of assets on the list** if a building or piece of land which is on the list is going to be sold with vacant possession then the owner of the asset needs to give notice to the local authority. There is then a 6 week moratorium period for any community group to express interest in writing and if they do, then a 6 month period is provided for that group to prepare its bid. After that period the owner can market the property and any bid from the community group will be considered with bids from other interested parties. There is no guarantee that the offer from the community group will be successful as the owner of the asset will dispose of the property in accordance with its own criteria for disposal. There are a number of exceptions contained within the legislation that mean that this moratorium period does not apply to and the owner does not need to give notice of its intention to sell. This includes when there is a legally enforceable requirement, which pre-dates the listing, to sell to a specific party.
- Compensation the presence of the land or building asset on the community value list may result in additional expenditure or a loss to the owner and therefore the owner can apply for compensation from the local authority. The figure is limited to costs or losses incurred only whilst the asset is on the list and could include such items as legal expenses for appeals, costs relating to the delay in the sale (such as maintenance, security, utility costs, loss of value).

### **Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn**

- 9. According to Land Registry records, the freehold of the Blacksmiths Arms is owned by Marston's Pubs Limited. The Blacksmiths Arms is currently open and trading. The nomination is being made by Naburn Parish Council (NPC). Legal Services have confirmed that a nomination must be considered by the Council if the nominator is someone who meets the eligibility criteria specified in the relevant legislation. NPC, as Parish Council for the area in which the nominated land is situated, are an eligible body entitled to submit a nomination for the purposes of the ACV regulations.
- 10. In accordance with regulations requiring that the owner of the nominated property be notified of a nomination, Marston's Pubs Limited has been informed in writing that the application has been made. They have been invited to make representations regarding the information.
- 11. The current tenant of the lease registered with the Land Registry is Danjo Partnership LLP. Notice of the nomination has been served on them in case they still hold any leasehold interest in the property.
- 12. The occupier of the Blacksmiths Arms has also been advised. No response has been received from the parties consulted.
- 13. NPC state in their nomination that the services provided by the pub furthers the social wellbeing and interests of the local community with local people being able to enjoy a range of drinks and food in a pleasant, convivial atmosphere.
- 14. The Blacksmiths Arms is the only pub in the village, and it enables people to meet and socialise in a welcoming environment and has good disabled access.
- 15. Historically the pub has hosted regular quiz nights, music and beer festivals and fundraising events for local charities.
- 16. The Blacksmiths arms has been a supporter of camping and marina developments within the village.
- 17. NPC have confirmed that recently, events have lessened largely driven by the effects of Covid and staffing. This they state makes the pubs preservation more vital.

### **Analysis**

18. If the decision is to approve the ACV nomination application then the owner of the property has a statutory right to request a review of that decision by submitting a review request to the Council within 8 weeks of the decision date. (If the decision is to reject the ACV nomination application, the legislation does not give the nominating group any right to appeal that request though they could potentially seek a judicial review (J.R.) of the decision by submitting a J.R. claim to the High Court).

### **Options & Recommendation**

- 19. The application to renew the listing of the Blacksmiths Arms as an Asset of Community Value can either be accepted or rejected. There are no other options as it is considered that sufficient information has been provided to make a decision.
- 20. Based on the information provided, it is recommended to renew the listing of the ACV for the Blacksmiths Arms.

### Council Plan

21. A Council that listens to residents through working with communities and partners.

### **Implications**

### 22. Financial

Compensation may be payable by the Council to the owner of any property which is listed. The figure is limited to costs or losses incurred only whilst the asset is on the list and could include such items as legal

expenses for appeals, costs relating to the delay in the sale (such as maintenance, security, utility costs, loss of value).

- 23. Human Resources (HR) none
- 24. Equalities, Crime and Disorder and IT none
- 25. **Legal** Advice and comments have been sought from Legal Services and incorporated within this report.
- 26. **Property** All property issues included in the report
- 27. Other none

### **Risk Management**

There are no significant risks to these applications.

### **Contact Details**

Tim Bradley
Asset Manager
Asset and Property Management
Tel No. 01904 553355

Tracey Carter
Director
Economy Regeneration and Housing
Tel. No. 01904 553419

Report Approved  $\sqrt{}$ 

01/09/22

Ward Affected: Wheldrake

### For further information please contact the author of the report

### **Annexes**

Annex 1 – Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn, York – Application to add to the list of assets of community value.

Annex 2 – Site Plan

Annex 3 - Current list of assets of community value

Abbreviations used in the report

ACV - Assets of Community Value

NPC - Naburn Parish Council





### **ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE NOMINATION FORM**

If you need assistance completing this form, then please refer to the guidance document which can be downloaded from the website <a href="www.york.gov.uk/assetsofcommunityvalue">www.york.gov.uk/assetsofcommunityvalue</a> or alternatively call 01904 553360.

### Section 1 About the property to be nominated

| Name of Property:    | BLACKSHITHS ARMS | 1 |
|----------------------|------------------|---|
| Address of Property: | WIND STREET YORK | 0 |
| Postcode:            | YOLA LEN         |   |

| Property Owner's Name:   | MARSTON'S PLC                               |         |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|---|---------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Address:                 | MYGRION) HONZE BGEMDELY<br>MARRIAGHAM BONZE | ROAD    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Postcode:                | NV 1 4-5T                                   |         |  |  |  |  |  |
| Telephone Number:        | 01902 711 811                               |         |  |  |  |  |  |
| Current Occupier's Name: | ANTHONY BUCKEY - TENMS. X                   | LANDWED |  |  |  |  |  |

### Section 2 About your community organisation

| Name of Organisation:     | NAG        | URN    | PLRISH | CONCK    |       |
|---------------------------|------------|--------|--------|----------|-------|
| Title:                    | HR         |        |        |          |       |
| First Name:               | Pill       | LP     | 200    |          |       |
| Surname:                  | A          | اجيليك | Serve  |          |       |
| Position in Organisation: |            | HECT   |        | ciccol   |       |
| Email Address:            | <b>3</b> . | •      | ·      | ~        | ×     |
| Address:                  | Tal.       | )      | NAROER | york     | 6 E E |
| Postcode:                 | (6.0)      |        | *      | <u> </u> |       |
| Telephone Number:         | .,         |        |        | 3        |       |
|                           |            |        |        |          |       |

### Organisation type:

Click in field for options

PARISH COUNCIL

### Organisation size

How many members do you have?

17

|    |    | -           |    | _   |
|----|----|-------------|----|-----|
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|    |    | ти          | DГ | 1 3 |

#### Supporting information for nomination

Any information entered in this section only may be copied and passed onto the owner of the property you are nominating. Definition of an asset of community value can be found in the guidance document.

Why do you feel the property is an asset of community value? Please give as much information as possible.

The village pub los soon the foral point of the village for 100's of yours

This is a renewal application

### Section 4 **Boundary of Property**

What do you consider to be the boundary of the property? Please give as much detail/be as descriptive as possible. Please include a plan.

#### Section 5

#### Attachment checklist

Copy of group constitution (if you are a constituted group)

Name and home address of 21 members registered to vote in nomination area (if group is not constituted)

Site boundary plan (if possible)

### Section 6

#### **Declaration**

I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this nomination form is complete and accurate.

Signed:

Dated:

2 July 2022

Please e-mail your completed form to property.services@york.gov.uk or post to:

**Asset and Property Management** 

City of York Council

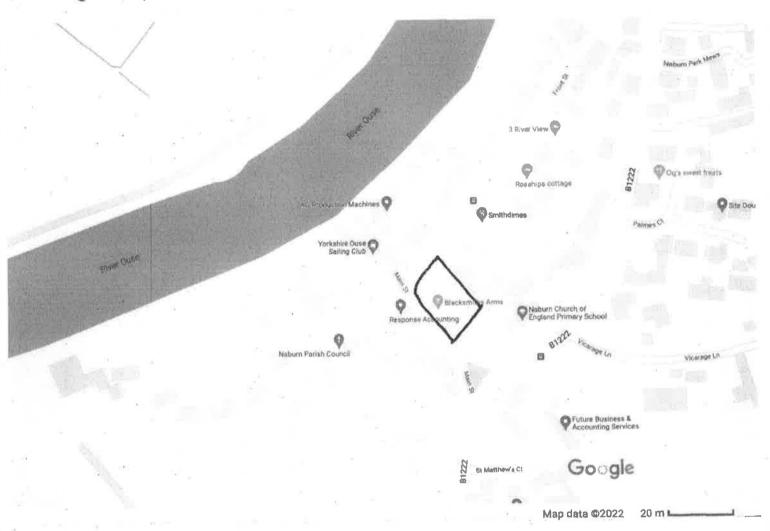
**West Offices** 

**Station Rise** 

York

**YO1 6GA** 

### Google Maps Naburn



#### Annex 1

The pub provides the following services which further the social wellbeing and interests of the local community:

- The pub enables local people to enjoy a range of drinks (and food) in a pleasant,
   convivial atmosphere, which furthers their individual well-being
- The pub enables local people to enjoy a range of drinks (and food) in a pleasant, convivial atmosphere, which furthers their individual well-being
- The pub enables local people to meet and socialise in a welcoming environment which, individually, they find rewarding and enjoyable. Such social interaction is also in the interests of the locality as a whole as it encourages community cohesion and a collective sense of well-being.
- New research from Oxford University shows that people who have a 'local' pub are happier, are more satisfied with their life and have a wider network of friends. The research is available at: http://www.camra.org.uk/pubs-wellbeing
- The Council has a local plan in place to protect public houses. The Council should therefore recognise the pub as an ACV to reflect the wishes expressed in the local plan to protect them.
- There is good access for disabled people at the pub
- The Pub has been included in a tourist or local pub guide
- There are good transport links available to/from the pub
- This is the only pub in the village
- There is free parking available which is accessed by the wider community
- Free wifi is available for customers
- The pub hosts regular quiz nights which bring the community together
- The pub has a great food menu enjoyed by the local community
- There are televisions screening sporting events enjoyed by patrons
- There is a beer garden attached to the pub which is used and enjoyed by local people
- The pub has special value to local heritage and culture which should be protected;
  - it is one of only three focal points in which the village can gather and socialise (along with the church and school)
- Meeting spaces are available for local community groups and charities such as the Community Fund group and Street Party Committee
- Local sports teams meet in the pub such as the Naburn Dad's cricket team
- The pub offers Board Games
- The pub hosts a Music and Beer Festival
- The pub holds fundraising events for local charities and also holds a Nepal Fundraising Supper
- The pub offers a Pensioners Special each week which draws a large number of the older villagers into the pub to socialise
- The pub supports the extensive camping and marina developments within the village



### These are the notes referred to on the following official copy

The electronic official copy of the title plan follows this message.

Please note that this is the only official copy we will issue. We will not issue a paper official copy.

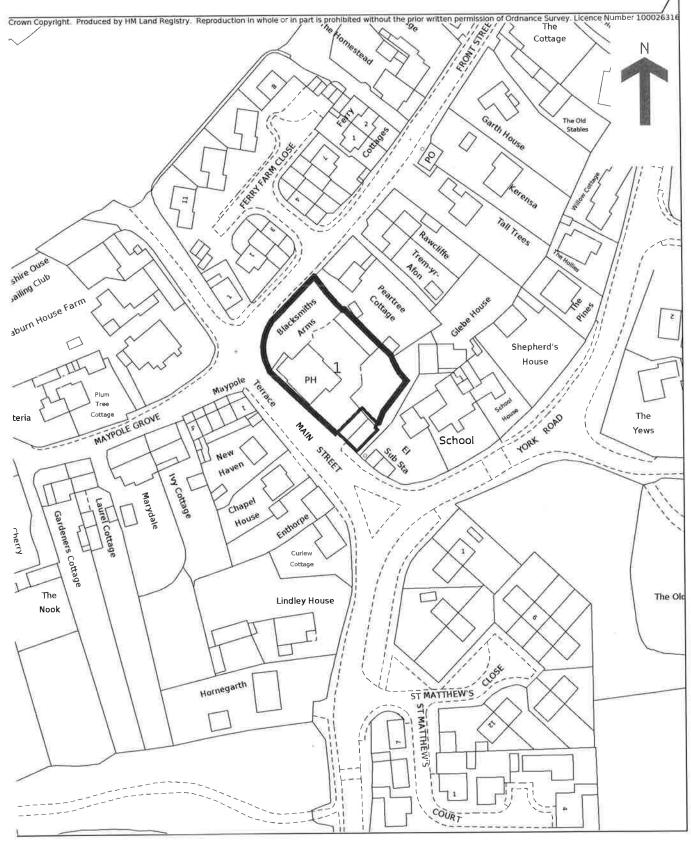
This official copy was delivered electronically and when printed will not be to scale. You can obtain a paper official copy by ordering one from HM Land Registry.

This official copy is issued on 08 August 2022 shows the state of this title plan on 08 August 2022 at 16:44:29. It is admissible in evidence to the same extent as the original (s.67 Land Registration Act 2002). This title plan shows the general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries. It may be subject to distortions in scale. Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground. This title is dealt with by the HM Land Registry, Durham Office.

### IM Land Registry Official copy of itle plan

Title number NYPage 70
Ordnance Survey map reterence SE5945NE
Scale 1:1250 enlarged from 1:2500
Administrative area York





### **Annex 3 - Current list of Assets of Community Value**

- The Golden Ball Public House, 2 Cromwell Road, York, YO16 6DU approved 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Renewed on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
- New Earswick and District Bowls Club, Huntington Road, York, YO32 9PX – approved 6th November 2014. Renewed on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- 3. Holgate Allotments, Ashton Lane, Holgate, York, YO24 4LX approved 29th June 2015. Renewed on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
- 4. The Swan, Bishopthorpe Road, York, YO23 1JH approved 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015.
- 5. The Derwent Arms, 29 Osbaldwick Village, Osbaldwick, YO10 3NP approved 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Renewed on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- 6. The Minster Inn, 24 Marygate, York, YO30 7BH approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
- 7. The Wenlock Arms Public House, 73 Main Street, Wheldrake, YO19 6AA approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
- Costcutter Shop, 58 Main Street, Wheldrake, York, YO19 6AB approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
- 9. Wheldrake Woods (owned by the Forestry Commission), Broad Highway, Wheldrake, YO19 6 approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
- 10. The Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn York, YO19 4PN approved 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
- 11. Holgate Community Garden and Play Park, Upper St Paul's Terrace, York, YO24 4BS. approved 12<sup>th</sup> Sepyember 2016
- 12. White Rose House, 79 Main Street, Wheldrake, York, YO19 6AA approved 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
- 13. The Grey Horse Public House, Main Street, Elvington, York, YO41 4AA approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- 14. The Deramore Arms Public House, Main Street, Heslington, York, YO10 5EA. approved 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.
- 15. The Carlton Tavern Public House, 104 Acomb Road, York, YO24 4HA approved 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

- 16. The Royal Oak Public House, 1 Main Street, Copmanthorpe, York, YO23 3ST. approved 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- 17. The Blue Bell Public House, 53 Fossgate, York, YO1 9TF. approved 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017.
- 18. The Old Ebor Public House, 2 Drake Street, York, YO23 1EQ. approved 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017.
- 19. New Earswick Swimming Pool, Hawthorne Terrace, New Earswick, YO32 4TZ. approved 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- 20. Strensall Library, 19 The Village, Strensall, York, YO32 5XS. approved 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- 21. The Lord Collingwood Public House, The Green, Upper Poppleton, York, YO26 6DP. approved 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- 22. The Garrison Church of St Wilfrid, St Wilfrid's Road, Strensall, York, YO32 5SJ. approved 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- 23. Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road, Strensall Camp, York, B757RL. approved 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.
- 24. The Lord Nelson Public House, 9 Main Street. Nether Poppleton, York, YO26 6HS. approved 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- 25. The Blacksmiths Arms Public House, Shipton Road, Skelton, York, YO30 1YJ. approved 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- 26. The car park at rear of the former Murton Arms Public House, Main Street, Murton, York, YO19 5UQ. approved 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020.