

**Report of the Executive Member for Transport and Planning**  
**To Full Council – 26 October 2017**

**Summary of Successful Funding Bids within the last 12 months relating to the Transport and Planning portfolio:-**

- **Ultra Low Emission** - £3.3m
- **National Productivity Investment Fund** - £626k
- **West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund Grant**
  - York Central - £37.4m
  - Outer Ring Road - £34.2m
- **Dft Pothole Spotter** – £250k
- **Access Funding Programme** - £1.3m over 3 years
- **Scarborough Bridge** - £4.9m
- **Council has released Lendal Bridge Reserve to spend on highway and transport initiatives** - £676k

**Transport**

A great deal has been achieved over the last 12 months in the transport area - ranging from the upgrade of traffic signals across the city to the successful reinstatement of camera enforcement of Coppergate access restrictions. The city has also been awarded significant funding, including £3.3m from the Low Emission Bus Scheme, to deliver future transport improvements across the city.

The key highlights in the Transport Area are identified in the following sections.

- 9 Resident Parking Schemes in progress
- In excess of 100 new/amended Traffic Regulation Order's (TRO's) in progress (Annual Review)
- Many events days with successful traffic management plans agreed - approved, including Micklegate Soapbox, Marathon, York Races
- Multiple developments with new and improved highways in progress, e.g. Terry's, Hungate, Grain stores, Poor Clares.
- Coordination and inspection services in respect of over 2000 Streetworks (Utility) Notices.

## **Sustainable Transport**

**James Street Link Road Phase 2** – The final section of the link road (Eboracum Way) connecting Layerthorpe and Heworth Green was opened in June. The road was delivered jointly with the developer of the Travelodge site completing the route from Hull Road to Heworth Green commenced in 2006 reducing congestion on Foss Bank and Foss Islands Road.

**Park & Ride contract** –The Park & Ride contract has been successful procured to operate from 2018 to 2026 with an improvement to emissions levels (including introduction of new fully electric buses) and retention of the same frequency of service currently provided. The Low Emission Bus Scheme grant will enable further enhancement of the vehicles to deliver an electric Park & Ride service.

**Sustainable Travel Access Fund** – The Council has been awarded £1.3m of Government funding for a three year programme of sustainable travel measures which, working with partners, will encourage consideration of sustainable modes of travel, through a programme engaging educational establishments, businesses and the wider York community to improve air quality and ease pressure on the highway network across the City.

**‘York by bus card’** launched with ‘All York’ (multi-operator), First York, Yorkshire Coastliner and Park & Ride products available for purchase from 17 automatic vending kiosks and the Bus and Visitor information point at York railway station. Over £360k of transactions since May 2016.

**Clarence Street** – New signals activated, road re-surfaced and relined. The signal changes will reduce journey times in to York by 1 minute in the AM peak from Clarence Street (resulting in faster bus journey times).

**Bus journey time interventions** on main York radial routes – These include changes to traffic signals which have resulted in a journey time saving of 2 minutes on buses using Fulford Road in the AM peak.

**Scarborough Bridge** – £4.9m of funding has been secured from the Council, York North Yorkshire East Riding LEP and West Yorkshire Combined Authority to deliver a 3.6m wide foot/cyclebridge replacement with new approach ramps. A planning application will be submitted in November with completion of the scheme anticipated in January 2019.

**Air Quality** – The conversion of all of the tour buses to electric operation has taken longer than anticipated but will be complete by the end of 2017/18. Development work for the Go Ultra Low Rapid Chargers is being progressed with the first charger hub to be delivered at Monks Cross.

## **Major Schemes**

**West Yorkshire Transport Fund** – The city has formally joined the fund gaining access to £85m of funding for York Central Access and Outer Ring Road Upgrade schemes to be delivered by 2021/22.

**Outer Ring Road Upgrade** - Development work is ongoing in line with the July Executive Report programme. Subject to land acquisition the first upgrade at Wetherby Road will commence in mid 2018.

**Outer Ring Road Dualling** – Over the next 18 months the council will use £295k awarded from the West Yorkshire Transport Transformational Fund to undertake pre-feasibility work to establish the strategic case for upgrading the route to dual carriageway standard.

**York Central Access** – The York Central Partnership are currently reviewing the results of the access options consultation. Works to the front of the station including the demolition of Queen Street Bridge are currently being explored with Archaeological investigations being planned for early 2018.

**A19/Crockey Hill Junction** – To reduce outbound delays at the A19/A64 junction capacity enhancements are being delivered at Crockey Hill. Preparatory Utility and site clearance work will be undertaken in the autumn with the main works planned to commence in January.

## **Network Management**

**A Boards** – City Centre controls have been put in place after many years of debate with a licensing system introduced on Micklegate. A review of the impact of the restrictions will be undertaken in 2018.

**Coppergate** – Bus Lane Enforcement has been successfully reintroduced. Non-compliance levels have reduced considerably.

**Fossgate** – A trial reversal of the traffic flow in Fossgate was introduced in September which aims to reduce the impact of vehicles on this area of the city. Subject to the results of the trial changes expected to be

presented to a Decision Session in early 2018 changes to the highway layout would then be delivered later in the year.

**Traffic Signal Asset Renewal** – This programme will see the refurbishment of more than 40 traffic signal installations across the York area. In year one of the programme in 2016/17, nine traffic signals were upgraded: 5 pedestrian crossings, 4 junction replacements. A further 6 pedestrian crossings and 5 junctions will be upgraded in 2017/18. All of the installations allow for improved, remote management of the traffic signals. A priority bicycle traffic signal on this key cycle route was introduced at the Skeldergate / North Street / Bridge Street / Micklegate junction.

**Highways lining** – Over 400km of Road markings refreshed across city.

**Traffic Innovation TTRIG / CITS** – The Government has awarded over £460k to CYC to implement traffic signal trials in preparation for the introduction of connected and autonomous vehicles on the UK's roads in the coming years. This work will be concentrated on the A59 corridor over the next 18 months.

**CCTV** – Gough and Kelly have been awarded the contract to operate and maintain the city's CCTV operation starting in November. The Council continues to work with North Yorkshire Police to explore enhancing the cost effectiveness of CCTV provision for the city.

### **Parking Services**

Introduction of a partnership between Parking Services and Veritau to tackle and prosecute Blue Badge fraud.

Developing stronger partnerships with the Police, Make It York and BID to help address congestion in the foot streets from delivery vehicles.

Introduction of card only Pay and Display machines as well as an increase in card/cash machines.

Tendering of a new pay by phone parking payment service, that brought in the UK's leading provider, RingGo, saving the Council £10K in comparison to the previous service. Also providing savings to customers who are not now charged for purchases under £5.

We have increased our Parking Enforcement capacity including Bus Wardens now issuing PCNs in key areas.

## **Highway Maintenance**

This report provides an update of the service performance delivered in highway maintenance commencing April 2017. The report identifies the proposed programmes of work through to completion.

### **Resurfacing and Reconstruction Works (R&R)**

2016 /17 Footway & Carriageway, Maintenance programme.

- 81 Programmed footway schemes, 47 completed to date
- 30 Programmed carriageway schemes 16 completed to date

### **Basic Maintenance**

- Total masons repairs carried out 369 jobs repairing 904 M<sup>2</sup>
- Total tarmac repairs carried out to date 798 jobs repairing 6'964m<sup>2</sup>

### **Street Lighting**

- Structural testing of steel columns 8,402 to date
- Column replacement 295 replaced to date
- Led lanterns replaced 405 to date
- Phase 2 to commence January 2018 - 810 column and LED lanterns identified for replacement from the structural report.

### **Winter Maintenance**

- Preparedness for winter maintenance is underway, including salt bin review vehicle maintenance and winter service plan.

### **Bar walls/Clifford tower colour changing LED scheme:**

Clifford's Tower and Bar Wall Complete Replacement of floodlights at three sections and linked to the station frontage scheme. This can now offer colour change facilities for specific calendar dates etc to promote certain days/events.

### **Micklegate Bar**

Work to remove the scaffold will commence this week. The works to the Bar have included the full and complete removal of the roof, repairs and renewal of the roof timbers including installation of insulation and a breathable membrane. The roof has been raised to improve the pitch and control of rain water and moisture penetration. The Stone work has been cleaned and re-pointed where required and the coat of arms has been carefully repainted. All gutters and downfall pipes have been repaired and there has been 19 motion detectors installed to the Bar to

monitor masonry movement. Works are complete this week and the road is planned to be reopened on the 30<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Pot hole spotter**

The **Department for Transport** announced on Friday 13 January 2017 a trial with **Thurrock, Wiltshire** and **York Council** including private sector SMEs, **Gaist** and **SOENECS**, to use High Definition Cameras on refuse collection vehicles and on buses, and Cycles within York – this work is ongoing under the supervision of Department for Transport (DfT).

### **Highways Maintenance**

The maintenance team are working closely with the Yorkshire Alliance updating intelligence and policies to align with the new DfT code of practice for Highway Maintenance and good asset management which is expected to be adopted by the Council in early 2018.

### **Development Services**

The Development Management Service has co-ordinated and negotiated successful outcomes for a number of significant planning proposals for the City over the last year. Pre- application discussion have been instigated in relation to key strategic sites at York Central and Castle Piccadilly, and the service is helping to facilitate the delivery of the Elderly Person's accommodation and Council Housing development strategies.

### **Planning Performance**

For the year to 30<sup>th</sup> September, York exceeded the national targets for percentage of applications decided within the time statutory target time period or in the agreed time in every application category:-

<b>Type</b>	<b>York</b>	<b>National Target</b>
<b>Major</b>	84%	60%
<b>Minor</b>	79.29%	65%
<b>Other</b>	87.47%	80%

With regard to the Government's new statistics in relation to the quality of decisions made (based on the percentage of appeals overturned compared to the total number of decisions and on the number of older applications), for 2 years to 30<sup>th</sup> June York was well within the top 20% of authorities in England in dealing with minor and other category applications.

### **Proportion of Applications Approved**

In York in the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 91% of applications were granted, above the national average of 88%. This is despite the high quality environment and heritage asset constraints on development and demonstrates that we work with applicants to seek acceptable solutions, rather than just refusing applications without engagement.

### **Appeals Performance**

For the year to the end of June, 20% of appeals decided were allowed; well below the national average of 34%. This indicates that where we are refusing applications, the decisions are not taken lightly and it is usually with sound reasoning.

### **Land Charges and Property Gazetteer**

In March at the Land Data Local Land Charges Awards for Excellence the Council's Local Land Charges Section were runners up in the Best Performing Local Authority at National Land Information Service Level 3 Local Land Charges Department, for the speed and quality of the service

The Local Land and Property Gazetteer team also received a gold achievement award at the Geoplace Exemplar Awards in May, for the quality and accuracy of address data.

### **Joint Working**

York has continued to manage the Building Control Service for Harrogate Council, and has recently provided managerial support for Selby Council's Development Management Service during a service review and recruitment process. This has had mutual benefits in initiating joint improvement projects and identifying process efficiencies at the authorities involved.

### **Strategic Planning**

Local Plan is progressing and is covered under the Leader's report.

## **Neighbourhood Planning**

**Poppleton Neighbourhood Plan** – This is our first Neighbourhood Plan to have reached the final stages of the process. Examination on the Plan commenced in January 2017 with the Examiners report issued in May. A Referendum was held on the Upper and Nether Poppleton Neighbourhood Plan on Wednesday 23 August 2017. The result was 'Yes'. Upper and Nether Poppleton Neighbourhood Plan will be progressed through the Local Plan Working Group and Executive.

We continue to work on progressing 14 other Neighbourhood Plans in the Authority including progress on Micklegate as our first Neighbourhood Forum and Plan Area.

## **Design/Conservation**

**Input on major planning pre apps, applications and conditions – to date include:-**

- **Guildhall** (Grade I, II\* & II) for its continued civic use and development into serviced offices and restaurants. Listed Building Consent (LBC) & planning achieved.
- **Nestle** main factory building reuse as private residential and community uses (Cream & almond building & listed library). LBC & planning achieved summer 2017 and pre app engagement now started on the main masterplan site.
- **Bootham Park Hospital** (Grade I, II\* & II) culminating in current application for new Mental Health services building at Haxby Rd site.
- **Assembly Rooms** (Grade I) assistance on emergency repair of ceiling. LBC achieved.
- **Mansion House** (Grade I) ongoing input into LBC.
- **Hudson House** demolition and redevelopment into four significant sized buildings adjacent to city walls (planning permission)
- **Refurbishment of Stonebow House** (conditions). Refurbishment almost complete.

## **Licensing**

The taxis and private hire trade make an important contribution to the local transport system with the authority area. They provide a flexible



form of public transport, providing a service in situations where other forms of transport are not available (rural areas and late evenings). They can play an important role in improving accessibility to those with a range of impairments such as mental health conditions, sensory impairments and dementia as well as physical disabilities in accessing services, communicating and travelling independently. They are used by all social groups.

CYC currently issues licences to:

- hackney carriage vehicles 183
- hackney carriage drivers 289
- private hire vehicles 588
- private hire drivers 607
- private hire operators 61

Administration of the taxi licensing policy is undertaken by the Gambling, Licensing and Regulatory Committee and not directly part of my portfolio.

### **Training for Private Hire and Taxi drivers**

As of September 2017 a new training requirement has been introduced for new driver applicants 'Knowledge and Safeguarding Training'. This training covers a variety of topics aimed at helping applicants in their new role:

- Disability Awareness;
- Child and Adult Safeguarding;
- Sexual Exploitation;
- Equality Awareness;
- Customer Service;
- Legislation and Byelaws; and
- York's Pedestrian Zone awareness

As the council limits the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences issued, it is best practice that an unmet demand survey is undertaken once every three years. A survey has been commissioned the results of which will be taken to Gambling, Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

### **Working with neighbouring Councils**

As the council is a member of the combined authorities group, along with authorities from West Yorkshire, officers are working on joint approaches in relation to certain areas of taxi licensing, for example vehicles standards and conviction policy. Cross border enforcement

authorisation has been agreed by the six authorities, this will enable authorised officers from the council to take relevant enforcement action against licensed vehicles/drivers from the West Yorkshire Authorities who are operating in York.

## **National policy issues**

Taxi licensing legislation is outdated, it still mentions a horse and carriage, and has not kept up with technology. Following a recommendation by the LGA the Chair of GLR Committee, I wrote to our local MPs asking them to lobby Parliament, asking that taxi licensing reform is put on the agenda. The Minister of State, John Hayes, has established a Taxi and Private Hire Task and Finish Group to consider the adequacy and efficiency of legislation and guidance concerning the licensing of taxis and private hire in England. This group is chaired by Bolton University's Professor Mohammed Abdel-Haq.

## **Digital Infrastructure**

Building on from being the first city in the country to benefit from a fibre based broadband private sector funded initiative, our digital landscape continues to be enhanced through a blend of both public and significant private sector funding models with particular reference to the active Talk Talk and Virgin programmes in our city.

Our developing digital landscape is already providing new opportunities and support for thousands of businesses based here and a better quality of life and value for our residents, and the confirmed growth of this key enabling utility, will help York to remain one of the UK's top digital infrastructure cities.

This reflects the council and our partners' ambition to make York the first truly gigabit and well connected city, which has been identified as a key city building block for the Government's industrial strategy.

Our fibre network has benefited from several funding streams and private sector investment which has laid an infrastructure supporting bids to create a city-wide intelligent transport management system and that's ready to support 5G.

Our connectivity is not only helping to create new jobs and attract investment, but it's making York an enviable business, residential and tourist destination. The gigabit network and widespread WiFi allows creative companies to communicate and exchange data with global clients at blistering speeds in an inspirational city.

Councillor Ian Gillies  
**Executive Member for Transport and Planning**

**Abbreviations:**

CITS – Corporate Intelligent Transport Systems

CYC – City of York Council

DfT – Department for Transport

GLR – Gambling, Licensing and Regulatory Committee

LBC – Listed Building Consent

LGA – Local Government Association

MP – Members of Parliament

SME – Small and Medium-sized Enterprise

SOENECS -Social, ENvironmental & EConomic Services

TTRIG – Transport Technical Research Innovation Grant