

York is a great place to live. We want all residents in the city and its surrounding villages to share in the benefits of York's success, enjoying healthy, active and independent lives, whatever their ages. We face a challenging time, with expected reductions in local Government funding and increasing demand for services. City of York Council will make the tough decisions required on finances so that we continue to support key frontline services and work with residents, partners and businesses to ensure that everyone in the city can achieve their full potential. Our key priorities are:

A PROSPEROUS CITY FOR ALL	A FOCUS ON FRONTLINE SERVICES
<p>Aim: A city where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local businesses can thrive • Residents have the opportunity to get good quality and well paid jobs • Residents can access affordable homes while the greenbelt and unique character of the city is protected • Everyone is supported to achieve their full potential • Efficient and affordable transport links enable residents and businesses to access key services and opportunities • Environmental Sustainability underpins everything we do • Everyone who lives in the city can enjoy its unique heritage and range of activities. • Visitors, businesses and residents are impressed with the quality of our city. 	<p>Aim: A city where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All York's residents live and thrive in a city which allows them to contribute fully to their communities and neighbourhoods • Delivering frontline services for residents is the priority • All children and adults are listened to, and their opinions considered • Everyone has access to opportunities regardless of their background • Support services are available to those who need them • Every child has the opportunity to get the best possible start in life • Residents are encouraged and supported to live healthily • Residents are protected from harm, with a low risk of crime
<p>What you will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated support for local small businesses • Continued support for high value sectors, including the green economy • York continues to have high employment and the Living Wage is promoted • A local plan that delivers housing and development while protecting the Green Belt. • An increase in the percentage of waste recycled • Steps taken to improve air quality • Continued inward investment in transport 	<p>What you will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents feel that their views have been listened to. • Residents are happy with the frontline services that they receive. • A smaller gap in the attainment levels between the highest achievers and the most vulnerable groups • Residents controlling their own care, and enjoying integrated care from the council and NHS. • Vulnerable people are safe and feel safe
<p>In the next four years we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare an evidence-based Local Plan that will meet housing need and commercial need, focusing on brownfield land and taking all practical steps to protect the Green Belt and York's character. • Ensure business cases for all projects are assessed in a robust and evidence-based way. • Help local businesses to achieve their potential including through Make it York. • Work to ensure York gets the best deal from all regional partners, including in relation to investment in transport infrastructure. • Promote financial inclusion by supporting the Living Wage, supporting voluntary organisations and developing financial inclusion work with measurable outcomes. • Increase employers' involvement with education and communities so that all children and young people can achieve good outcomes and make the most of their talents and skills • Develop a long term plan to increase recycling rates and cut the city's carbon emissions. • Re-establish a Green Jobs Task Group. • Work towards plans for 'One Planet Living' • Support rural bus services and others where there is most need. 	<p>In the next four years we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put children at the heart of everything we do. • Work with local partners, such as schools, to ensure that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds get extra support. • Work with schools and partners to make sure everyone can achieve a healthy and prosperous life, no matter what their background is. • Use all our services to protect children and adults from abuse and exploitation. • Reintroduce Ward Committees with increased funding, so that communities can make more decisions about local services. • Complete a 'bottom-up' review of health and adult social care to ensure a joined-up approach is taken across services and that the service is firmly people focused. • Work with the NHS to provide support for people to avoid or deal with mental health issues. • Help everyone to understand how they can live healthier lives and avoid problems from things like alcohol, smoking and being over-weight. • Ensure valued community facilities are protected. • Improve the council's Customer Centre to ensure residents' queries are responded to quickly and effectively. • Ensure the city centre, villages and neighbourhoods are clean and safe environments

A COUNCIL THAT LISTENS TO RESIDENTS	Our purpose is to be a more responsive and flexible council that puts residents first and meets its statutory obligations
Internally	<p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the delivery of frontline services for residents and the protection of community facilities. • Focus on cost and efficiency to make the right decisions in a challenging financial environment. <p>What you will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That we always consider the impact of our decisions, including in relation to health, communities and equalities. • Use of evidence-based decision making. • Improved efficiency, streamlined council management, and we will always look to take government grants on offer to freeze Council Tax. <p>In the next four years we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a new model of governance, with the Executive to replace the cabinet and a new cross-party scrutiny and policy committee approach. • Implement the outcomes of our review on governance, transparency and public engagement • Promote mutual respect between officers and members with clearly defined roles for each. • Be entrepreneurial, making the most of commercial opportunities. • Cut red tape and make it easier for small businesses to bid for council contracts • Build the culture we need and attract, retain and develop colleagues.
With Communities & Partners -we will	<p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate and champion the diversity of our population and encourage everyone to play an active role in the city. <p>What you will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with all public sector bodies in the city and the region to make sure we get the most from collective public expenditure in York • We will be transparent in all we do, including being clear with communities and partners about the scale of the financial challenges we face. <p>In the next four years we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with parish councils, resident associations and other organisations to deliver the best services for residents. • Provide excellent customer service. • Engage with our communities, listening to their views and taking them into account.
In the region and nationally – we will	<p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the lead on working with partners to make the case for more local power over our finances and future so we have greater control. <p>In the next four years we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in external partnerships that support the local economy and lead to direct outcomes for residents.