

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

Executive

To: Councillors Douglas (Chair), Kilbane (Vice-Chair), Kent, Lomas, Pavlovic, Ravilious, Steels-Walshaw and Webb

Date: Tuesday, 3 March 2026

Time: 4.30 pm

Venue: West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

The agenda for the above meeting was published on **Monday, 23 February 2026**.

The attached documents are now available for the following agenda item:

5. **Public Participation** (Pages 3 - 10)

The following information has been submitted in relation to agenda item 10, City Centre Events and Permanent Anti-Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order (ATTRO):

- a) Written representation by Make it York
- b) Written representation by Andrew Lawson, Executive Director at York BID
- c) Written representation by York Disability Rights Forum
- d) Written representation by Pubwatch.

This agenda supplement was published on **Monday, 2 March 2026**

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Please find below a statement from Make It York in relation to Item 10.

In relation to Item 10 on the executive meeting agenda, Make It York would like to stress the importance that the Council's executive focus on the consideration of the impact that this will have on the City of York, overall.

Feedback from stakeholders has stressed that the change in operating conditions for events, specifically York Christmas Market, will have great impact on the overall economy for the City.

Make It York have and will continue to work with all stakeholders including City of York Council to support the long-term vision that City Centre events are inclusive and accessible, whilst working within the measures presented with the Anti-Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order (ATTRO). We advocate for the health and safety for everybody within the city centre and will continue to work with the council on viable options to achieve this combined long-term goal for the City.

Sarah Loftus

Managing Director

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Reference: Council Executive

Meeting date: 3rd March 2026

Subject: 10. City Centre Events and Permanent Anti Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order (ATTRO)

Statement by: Andrew Lowson, Executive Director, York BID.

Dear Members,

The York BID has welcomed being part of the task and finish group established to look at city centre events and how they strike a balance with accessibility and security.

We have attended four of the groups to date and we have been encouraged by the desire to look at both short and long term solutions.

Short term solutions have included reviewing additional blue badge parking provision and market operational hours. Long term solutions have included looking at a permanent ATTRO case study from Chester – a solution that has provided this town with a system that allows good access for blue badge holders, is overseen by the towns safety advisory group and as a result has not experienced any unexpected police interventions in the two years it has been operational.

We support the recommendation for a consultation on a permanent ATTRO. We do so whilst urging to Council to ensure communications on this subject are proactive and robust. It has been noted in the media that some campaign groups have already interpreted the terminology as a hindrance to accessing the city, where in fact the intention of a permanent ATTRO (which can be activated/ de-activated at agreed times throughout a year) is designed to provide improved and more consistent access.

Recommendations on increasing blue badge parking we see as positive, although we also understand the lack of available options makes this a more limited exercise than we would all like.

One concern that we have is that in all the meetings to date, there has been no police presence. This concern has been raised by York BID and several partners. We feel we have good working relationships with local police officers, but decisions around counter terrorism require specialist officers with relevant powers and skill sets. In the last meeting, I was tasked with contacting the relevant senior Officers to engage them with this task and finish process. Whilst York BID is not leading this process, it is something I have undertaken and I am awaiting a response. Our pressing concern is that because a key partner has been missing, the papers that Council Exec are considering tonight do not contain what I believe to be the necessary input from North Yorkshire Police, which is surely crucial? I am hopeful that this will be remedied going forward and trust the Executive will not make any definitive decisions without this input.

We would like to reiterate the importance of the Christmas Markets and the wider events programme to the general economic health of York City Centre. York BID will continue to engage with CYC and partners in the belief that with the right partners talking to one another, we can find solutions for all.

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Written submission from York Disability Rights Forum to the Council Executive meeting on 3rd March 2026 with regard to Item 10 – City centre events and permanent Anti-Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order

We welcome the Council's commitment to improving city centre access and acknowledge the challenges it faces given our increasingly risk adverse society with regard to fear of terrorist attacks as well as the physical layout of the city centre and financial constraints. Your officer's report reminds us of your administration's commitment to 'access for all' and includes the statement that: *'In an increasingly polarised and divided society, there is a need for the city centre to do all it can to draw people together. In this context, it is vital that the centre is accessible for all, both in terms of how it is configured and served by key infrastructure, and in terms of how key activity, including city centre events is managed.....'* (page 117) (our bold). It goes on to say: 'It is our ambition to provide **full independent access for all to the city centre at all times.....'** The report later refers to your 10 Year Plan and Local Transport Strategy, both of which repeat your commitment to a city centre **accessible for all**. However, the options presented today make clear that access will **not** be achievable for **all** disabled residents and visitors any time soon. That should be made *much* clearer. Indeed the report's reference to the development of a jointly owned road map for longer term solutions has no start date and nothing about who its joint owners will be.

Our starting point at YDRF is that we do not consider the approach to blue badge exclusion during the 2025 Christmas Markets – and hence potentially for future such events - to have been proportionate. We don't accept that vehicles transporting BB holders constitute a significant terrorist threat – and certainly not sufficient to override their human rights. Representatives from several disability groups in the city, including ourselves, met with the North Yorkshire Chief Constable last November to express our concern about his request for an ATTRO for the Christmas Markets but without success. For many blue badge holders, the city centre continues to be a 'no go' area for too much of the time.

We very much hope that the measures set out in the report will result in improved access for some disabled people, providing they are implemented. We were pleased to attend the events arranged to discuss possible options but the report's reference to the measures being co-designed is a misnomer. This report is our first chance to see what officers made of our discussions. It is now several years since the then Director of Communities agreed that officers should check wording with YDRF in advance whenever referring to us to in reports, including when apparently representing our views as here. This is so that amendments can be made if necessary. We suspect this has never got properly embedded into practices so it's not a dig at the officers concerned but to the lack of appropriate procedures for claiming co-design.

In similar vein, we were surprised to learn (para 24) that the Access Officer's role in a 'partnership working group' is to represent the views of 'York Access Forum **and disability rights groups'** (our bold). While it seems wholly appropriate to involve the Access Officer in this group, YDRF has not been asked if we want our views to be represented in this way or how it would be done. And we note work is ongoing on a Movement and Place Plan: we would welcome early involvement of disability groups.

Finally, we're aware that the council is trialling the use of the HREIAT – which we welcome - and want to offer suggestions for improvement. In this report the tool only includes ratings of 'positive' despite your own guidance pointing out the importance of providing negatives too, where applicable, especially where human rights have to be balanced (p145). (Indeed the lack of reference to the Human Rights Act in the earlier legal section is perplexing (para 33 page 130)). The continuing exclusion of some blue badge holders is an obvious negative. Earlier in the report (p132), there is reference to some disabled people being unable to access city centre banking or financial advice and to the importance of the Purple Pound to the local economy (if disabled people can't access the centre) but even these do not appear as negatives on the HREIAT. We were also surprised to see the omission of any attention to the 'Right to private and family life'

and the 'Right to freedom of expression' in the HREIAT as believe both rights are impacted by the exclusion of some Blue Badge holders.

These are not criticisms for the sake of it but an attempt to point to the importance of engagement, transparency and truly working together. As the report itself demonstrates, disabled people have been giving time and energy to consultations for a very long time but all too often see little or no improvements and so lose trust and hope. We believe there are the nuggets of progress in this report but let's turn them into the beginning of realising your commitment to a truly accessible city.

(Note: social model language says we should be referred to as disabled people – i.e. disabled by societal barriers - not people with disabilities as in parts of this report).

fabler

THOR'S
TIPI BAR

House of the
Trembling Madness

Dusk

Statement on the Importance of the York Christmas Market to Local Bars and Pubs **January 2026 | On behalf of all Pubwatch Members**

Written and circulated by Amanda Monaghan, part of the Pubwatch Steering Committee and Co-Owner of THOR'S tipi bar, Trembling Madness Lendal, and Dusk.

Pubwatch represents Licensee Holders in York and we wish to make a statement to York City Council regarding the vital importance of the York Christmas market as a source of revenue for local businesses, particularly those in the hospitality sector.

York Christmas market is one of the most lucrative events for all businesses residing in the city centre, not only for vendors who choose to operate within the market, but for all of us who naturally benefit from the increased footfall of tourists and residents visiting our city.

Collectively, while the market is here, our revenue grows around 50% per week and our staff-rotas increase around 20%. When things are good for us, they're also good for our team. Increased revenue means that we can afford to give our employees more hours and hire additional seasonal staff. We believe that around 15-20% of our turnover during the festive period is directly related to the higher footfall coming to the city for the Christmas market.

We estimate the Christmas market generates a total of 72,000 hours or £1million worth of wages directly into the pockets of York workers.

Not only do our teams rely on the extra hours and tips they'll accrue, the revenue that's generated during this period helps our businesses to shoulder the lean months that inevitably follow in our industry, from January to March. During this period customer spend in the city centre is half that of the festive period (figures obtained from York BID).

Additionally, visitors come to the market, they visit our venues and then, we hope, will return themselves and tell their friends to visit – a double-boost for hospitality businesses who are already facing well publicised head-winds and difficult trading conditions.

Indie York estimates that around 65% of all businesses in York are independently owned. Removing the Christmas market from our city would be a serious blow to local independent businesses whom are less able to weather economic shocks.

When an ATTRO is implemented, we kindly ask you to seek a compromise and create additional support for those with protected characteristics e.g. work with partners to identify pockets of space within the city that provide suitable parking access for the city centre. This may mean shorter opening times during the day and opening later (say 11am), these changes would have a negligible effect on our business.

Ultimately, we ask you kindly, please don't take our hugely successful Christmas market away from the city.

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