



## Notice of a public meeting of

### Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee

- To:** Councillors Fenton (Chair), Pavlovic (Vice-Chair), Baker, Mason, Vassie, Wells and Musson
- Date:** Friday, 11 December 2020
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** Remote Meeting

### AGENDA

**1. Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, members are asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

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

To approve and sign the minutes of the Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2 November 2020.

**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.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at remote meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is at **5.00pm on**

**Wednesday 9 December 2020.**

To register to speak please visit [www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings](http://www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings) 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 Remote Public Meetings**

Please note that, subject to available resources, this remote public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at [www.york.gov.uk/webcasts](http://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts). During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates ([www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy](http://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy)) for more information on meetings and decisions.

- 4. Homeless Winter Night Provision 20/21** (Pages 5 - 12)  
This report provides the Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny Committee with an update on the current homelessness situation and the winter night provision for rough sleepers and single homeless people in York.
- 5. Council Housing Energy Retrofit Programme** (Pages 13 - 14)  
This report sets out proposals for a Council Housing Energy Retrofit Programme that will be considered by Executive on December 15th 2020.
- 6. Urgent Business**  
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent.

## Democracy Officer

Robert Flintoft

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

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

Contact details are set out above.

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- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
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Contact details are set out above.

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**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 (Polish)  
własnym języku.

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

**☎ (01904) 551550**

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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Meeting	Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	2 November 2020
Present	Councillors Fenton (Chair), Pavlovic (Vice-Chair), Baker, Mason and Musson
Apologies	Councillors Vassie and Wells

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### **1. Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests or any prejudicial or discloseable pecuniary interest that they might have in respect of the business on the agenda.

Councillor Mason declared a pecuniary interest as he worked as a Magistrate.

### **2. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 24 February 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **3. Public Participation**

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

### **4. Community Safety During COVID**

The Committee were joined by council officers and Superintendent Lindsey Butterfield, who each outlined the impact COVID-19 had had on services in their area, this included Community Safety, Public Protection, Housing, and Policing in York. It was outlined that closer partnership working, new approaches, and new pieces of technology had allowed services to adapt and continue throughout the pandemic, even with challenges such as the closing of the courts and the regular changes in government legislation.

Members discussed police activity during lockdown in relation to areas such as County Lines. It was confirmed that in the early stage

of lockdown demand on the police had reduced and with more people at home there had been more opportunities for information gathering. With access to the courts restricted, members also discussed what actions had been taken to tackle anti-social behaviour, noting the use of things such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

Officers and members highlighted the positive compliance of licensed premises and business' in the city more widely to COVID-19 restrictions. Concerns were raised however, regarding the access of alcohol by minors, it was confirmed that this was not an issue in any large volume identified by the police, but that they would continue to monitor.

Public safety was discussed with a large uptake of cycling and the return to more regular amounts of traffic since the end of the first lockdown, maintaining safety for those using roads throughout York was highlighted as an important. The safety of individuals exercising after work was also raised and considered, in light of shorter daylight hours as winter approaches, and new COVID-19 restrictions preventing groups from different households exercising in public spaces together, the importance of keeping individuals leaving there home for things such as walks or runs was noted as a priority.

Members enquired about the access to emergency accommodation and if lockdown had impacted the access for rough sleepers. It was confirmed that the council was continuing to run its Everybody In initiative, but some people that had accessed emergency accommodation had returned to sleeping on the streets. Officers confirmed that places remained available and they would continue to offer these places to rough sleepers, this included the use of a brand new hostel James House and the continued use currently of Ordinance Lane.

Members were also provided with an update on the role that COVID marshals would play, noting that they would not hold an enforcement role, but instead would aim to encourage compliance with COVID-19 guidelines. Members also questioned the best way for residents to report concerns and it was highlighted they could call 101 or 01904 551555.

Resolved:

- i. Update was noted.

Reason: To ensure the Committee remain updated in relation to Community Safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **5. Work Plan**

Members considered the Committee's work plan and agreed that the proposed Committee meeting in December would be brought forward to allow the Committee to provide pre-decision scrutiny on Council Housing Retrofitting prior to a decision being taken by the Executive on 15 December 2020.

Resolved:

- i. The Committee's work plan was noted.

Councillor S Fenton, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.22 pm].

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**Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee****11<sup>th</sup> December 2020****Report of the Interim Head of Place****Report on the Homeless Winter Night Provision 20/21****Summary**

1. This paper updates the Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny Committee on the current homelessness situation and the winter night provision for rough sleepers and single homeless people in York.

**Background****The Current Homelessness situation**

2. City of York Council is currently in a partnership with other organisations across York, working under the 2018-2023 Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Together strategy. This partnership approach is well established, operating effectively for many years, and continues to attempt to rise to the challenges of tackling all forms of homelessness. These challenges have been further complicated this year by Covid 19.
3. The team are responding positively to the challenge of tackling all forms of homelessness. These challenges are numerous and there remains significant pressure on the service. Despite this, we continue to provide a high quality Housing Options Service and a nationally recognised advanced Resettlement service.
4. As part of the response to Covid, the team worked hard to ensure everyone had a place to sleep which was safe and minimised the risk of infection. This included utilising otherwise empty hotel accommodation which was supported by funding from central government. These relationships remain in place and can be utilised if needed as part of our winter response.

**2020-2021 Winter night Provision**

5. This year due to Covid 19 and the resulting second lockdown there has been a different response to bed provision in the city. On 1<sup>st</sup> November, we

activated our winter night provision for rough sleepers and single homeless people. This will offer direct access to safe and warm accommodation during this period. Due to the unique challenges faced this year, much of this extra provision is already in place, meaning the transition into winter provision has been less demanding than previous years. The work of service providers this year, whether statutory, voluntary or faith based has reduced the number of people sleeping rough and this service will continue over winter to house people during the extra challenges that cold weather brings.

6. The nature of the Covid outbreak has meant that we have had to offer a different form of night provision. In previous winters we offered up to 29 beds, however many of these were communal in nature and can no longer be safely provided. We continue to offer a vital emergency bed provision, but we will do this in a different way to help reduce the chances of infection amongst residents. A summary of the previous winter response is presented in the right hand column of the table below. The left hand column shows how Covid has limited the capacity of our usual response.

<b>This winter period - 1<sup>st</sup> Nov to 29<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Pre pandemic winter night bed offer</b>
<b>Peasholme centre</b> – offer of 3 emergency beds, 4 in absolute emergency utilising a back office interview room	7-8
<b>Howe Hill</b> – offer of 3 Emergency beds	7-8
<b>Union Terrace Hostel</b> - Offering 0 emergency beds <b>but do prioritise empty rooms on this basis</b>	7
<b>Robinson Court</b> - 1 emergency bed	1
<b>Yes Below Zero (flat 2 HH)</b> - 2 emergency beds	5
Totals	29

7. In order to fill the gap in provision above we have the following additional options to utilise at short notice if needed:

Ordnance Lane - accommodation for rough sleepers added to emergency capacity due to the opening of James House	9
Hotel Partners – relationships in place and could be utilised if needed	When required
Empty hostels (Holgate Road and Crombie House) made vacant by opening of James House, these can	When required – up to 15 bed

be brought back into use if required by the resettlement team
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spaces available
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8. This winter provision will provide a reliable supply of emergency provision to meet demand. A triage approach is undertaken on how and where to place people and those deemed to have complex needs are prioritised into the supported accommodation schemes where skilled staff are on duty 24/7 to support them.
9. It is worth noting that the pandemic has galvanised the culture of eradicating rough sleeping amongst services, resources have been provided to support this. This has led to a reduction in the number of people sleeping rough in York and it is hoped that demand will be lower this year than previously. We are maintaining a steady flow of more permanent supported accommodation beds to help deliver the capacity needed. However, in the event of a change in circumstances or an extreme weather event, our approach allows us to provide a significant increase in emergency capacity if needed.
10. While the official winter night provision deactivates on the 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021, a weather assessment is always made and extensions can be applied if required. Our approach will be phase into our all year provision to ensure no one is returned to the streets or made homeless. This year we will need to monitor the situation with regards to Covid to ensure our residents remain safe. The culture and ambition to prevent rough sleeping in York will remain next year, with resources focused on supporting long term solutions.

### Summary of Homeless situation in York

	<b>18/19 target and actual</b>	<b>19/20 target and actual</b>	<b>21/21 target and actual to date</b>
No of households in temporary accommodation	57 Actual 66	65 Actual 62	60
No of households accepted as priority need (main duty HRA17)	100 Actual 61	80 Actual 99	80
No of rough sleepers	15 Actual 9	6 Actual 7	4 Actual 3
Not to use B&B for 16 or 17 year olds	0 Actual 0	0 Actual 0	0 0 thus far
Not to use B&B for families, other than in emergencies and then for no longer	0 Actual 0	0 Actual 0	0 0 thus far

than 6 weeks			
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11. This year, we received £6400 Cold Weather funding from MHCLG to offset the additional cost of an increase in emergency bed provision during winter.
12. In addition, we received £475k Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding for a variety of front line workers: navigators, outreach workers, MEAM workers, Mental Health and private rented sector officers. These posts have supported our 'inreach' work with rough sleepers currently in accommodation. We hope this will reduce incidences of rough sleeping in the city in the medium and longer term.
13. *RSI staff support in numbers:*
- 1 Rough Sleepers coordinator
  - 4 Rough Sleeper Housing navigators
  - 2 MEAM workers and personalisation monies (*MEAM Making Every Adult Matter*)
  - 2 Outreach workers for our salvation army EIP Team
  - 2 Private rented Sector officers
  - A mental Health Worker.
  - Resettlement Category - permanent housing for rough sleepers
14. We have successfully worked to accommodate all of York's rough sleepers during Covid and have made a major difference to the landscape of rough sleeping in the city. The ambition is to maintain and further improve this next year.
15. Below is a summary of priority need acceptances and reasons for the loss of the last settled home.

	<b>TOTAL housed in year</b>
<b>2018/19</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>2020/21</b>	<b>48 up to Nov 20</b>

<b>Priority Need acceptances</b>	<b>19-20</b>	<b>2020/21 As of Nov 20</b>
Households with children or pregnant	57	25
16 and 17 year olds / vulnerable young people	0	0
Old age	0	1

Households with physical illness or disabilities	17	5
Households with mental health issues	19	14
Domestic violence	4	1
Emergency / other	2	1
Asylum Seekers	0	0

Reason for loss of last settled home	2019/20 HRA17 reason for loss of last settled home (All approaches)	2020-21 as of Nov 20
End of private rented tenancy - assured shorthold	191	82
Family no longer willing or able to accommodate	316	225
Friends no longer willing to accommodate	85	77
Domestic abuse	60	57
Non-violent relationship breakdown with partner	98	65
End of social rented tenancy	24	8 (on hold until next year – reasons are primarily around serious ASB)
Eviction from supported housing	16	22
End of private rented tenancy - not assured shorthold	27	10
Property Disrepair	1	0
Left institution with no accommodation available	39	38
Required to leave accommodation	1	0

provided by Home Office as asylum support		
Other reasons / not known	137	123
Mortgage Repossession	7	1
Racially motivated violence or harassment	0	1
Non racially motivated/other motivated violence or harassment	12	8
Left HM forces	1	0
Fire or flood / other emergency	3	3
TOTAL	1018	720

16. The Service remains very busy and we are in a position where 'move on' from temporary accommodation and resettlement remains challenging, we are having to use more B&B's than previous years with the additional funds to tackle rough sleeping proving vital in helping us meet our objectives.
17. Creating and maintaining a sufficient supply of 'move on' options for people with complex needs continues to be a significant challenge. This has created incidents of residents sometimes ending up in our supported accommodation services for too long.
18. The number of residents with complex needs is a significant challenge for services, a person's housing situation (or lack of) is the most visible and easy to measure record of this complex situation. However, in many cases the lack of housing is not the largest contributing factor to a person being homeless. It is often the result of a complex mix of personal circumstances. It is therefore vital that we continue to offer a holistic wrap around service alongside our housing offer to reduce occurrences and reoccurrences of people being homeless. Other services both within and outside the council have a significant role to play supporting this.
19. Any person sleeping rough is one too many. However, we continue to make great progress in reducing the number of official rough sleepers. The number of rough sleepers at the last official count was 3, down from 7 the previous year.

20. Hospital discharges and release from prison continues to create challenges to the homeless service with priority given to release and discharge. Housing people with high needs and high risk behavioural issues remains a challenge and utilises significant resource capacity within the team. Such residents require significantly more specialised support than can be provided through the homeless team alone.

21. Covid 19 has exacerbated pressure on the advice and assistance side of the service. Remote working has presented challenges for our staff teams. Physical peer support and partnership working has been difficult to replicate in a virtual way. However, despite all of these challenges our supported accommodation has remained fully operational throughout the pandemic and has adapted well to the changing environment.

**Recommendation:**

Scrutiny is asked to note this information and to make any recommendations on the issues raised.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

Michael Jones  
AD Housing and Community  
Safety

Tim Carroll  
Service Manager Housing  
Options

**Chief officer responsible for this report**

Tracey Carter – Interim Director of Place

**Report Approved**  **Date** 02/12/2020

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

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

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**Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee****11<sup>th</sup> December 2020****Report of the Interim Head of Place****Council Housing Energy Retrofit Programme****Summary**

1. A paper setting out proposals for a Council Housing Energy Retrofit Programme will be considered by Executive on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.
2. This report outlines the issues and challenges for landlords, homeowners and tenants in decarbonising their homes. The report will set out the need for investment, skills and training and supply chain development to deliver carbon neutrality and proposes options for the retrofit of the council's own housing stock.
3. This is in response to the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in to global warming and set an ambition for York to be carbon neutral by 2030.
4. The report sets out the objectives of the Council Housing Retrofit programme and considers three options to allocate the agreed £2m capital budget.

**Background**

5. The Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety has requested that this report is considered by the Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee for pre decision scrutiny in order to understand the issues and options under consideration and to provide Executive with their comments before they make their determinations on the 15<sup>th</sup> December.
6. The Executive report will be published on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and will then be published as an Annex to this report.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

Michael Jones  
AD Housing and Community  
Safety

**Chief officer responsible for this report**

Tracey Carter – Interim Director of Place

**Report Approved**  **Date** 02/12/2020

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

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

**Background Papers:**

Annex A: - Council Housing Energy Retrofit Programme Executive Report - to follow