



## Notice of a public

### Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change

**To:** Councillor Widdowson (Executive Member)

**Date:** Wednesday, 7 September 2022

**Time:** 3.00 pm

**Venue:** The George Hudson Board Room - 1st Floor West Offices (F045)

## 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 **4:00 pm on 9 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 called in items 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 **5.00 pm on 5 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 8 June 2022.

**3. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. 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 our meetings. The deadline for registering is 5.00pm on Monday 5 September 2022 Members of the public can speak on agenda items or matters within the remit of the committee.

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 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 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. York Green Streets** (Pages 5 - 18)  
This report summarises the outcomes of the York Green Streets 'opportunity mapping' exercise undertaken earlier this year to assess the scope for new tree planting in York's urban and peri-urban area towards the council's agreed 2050 tree canopy target.

- 5. Urgent Business**  
Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services 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. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change
Date	8 June 2022
Present	Councillors Widdowson

### **1. 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 she might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

### **2. Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been three registrations to speak at the session under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. However, one speaker was unable to attend the meeting and gave their apologies.

Katherine Crocker raised concerns about levels of pollution in Fishergate Ward and across the city. She asked that the Council focus on continued improvements to air quality even above objectives set by government. She also asked that the Council set its ambitions beyond proposing residents move to electric vehicles as these had an environmental and air pollution cost, to a less traffic intensive city.

Geoff Beacon discussed the health problems created or exacerbated by pollution levels in the city, he noted concerns that respiratory issues as a result of Covid-19 would increase the risk of effects from air pollution on individuals. He asked that the Council reconsider some of the locations of air quality monitoring as they were not in his opinion, representative of the pollution breathed by the population.

### **3. Minutes**

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

#### **4. Air Quality Annual Status Report and Air Quality Monitoring Review**

The Executive Member considered the report on York's air quality annual status and air quality monitoring. It was confirmed with officers that the Council was not awaiting the creation of an action plan to deliver on a program of work to improve air quality, which would include the increase of electric vehicle usage in the city.

It was noted that air quality in the city continued to improve and the promotion of active travel should have a continued positive impact on air quality. It was confirmed that the city had 3 areas currently exceeding the health based annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> objective of 40µg/m, however, Fishergate ward it was confirmed did not exceed these levels and had not for several years. The importance of continual air quality monitoring within the city was noted by the Executive Member who agreed to refurbish three air quality monitoring stations using existing DEFRA grant funding and following DEFRA guidance for their placement and use.

Resolved:

- i. Noted the content of the report and approved submission of the Annual Status Report to DEFRA. Noted the generally improving trend in air pollution in recent years, progress made with AQAP3 and plans to commence the work to update the current plan in line with the Environment Act 2021, to complement other key CYC strategies.

Reason: To ensure that the Executive Member is aware of current air quality position in the city including exceedances of objectives in some areas, progress made with air quality improvement measures, and revised national air quality targets expected through the Environment Act 2021.

- ii. Approved the refurbishment to three air quality monitoring stations using existing DEFRA grant funding as outlined in this report.

Reason: To ensure air quality monitoring equipment remains compliant with DEFRA guidance and suitable for ongoing monitoring in relation to current standards and new targets being introduced through the Environment Act 2021.

## **5. Household Waste Recycling Centre and treatment of 'DIY waste' Consultation**

Officers introduced the report on the DEFRA consultation on the disposal of DIY waste at household waste recycling centres and the proposed response from the Council outlined in appendix A.

Concerns were discussed with the Executive Member regarding the proposed changes to the disposal of DIY waste at household waste recycling centres. Officers deemed the proposed changes would be hard to implement and would likely prove less cost effective to implement for the Council. It was also noted that the changes could encourage traders push the burden of building waste removal onto households. The Executive Member agreed with the concerns of officers and added that they could lead to more fly tipping and a larger environmental impact with more journeys in smaller vehicles transporting DIY waste. Therefore the Executive Member approved the proposed response at appendix A to the consultation.

Resolved:

- i. Approved the City of York Council response to the DEFRA consultation (as set out in Appendix A).

Reason: In order to provide a response to the DEFRA Consultation on Disposal of DIY waste at household waste recycling centres.

Cllr Widdowson, Executive Member  
[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 3.23 pm].

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**Executive Member Decision Session****7 September 2022**

Report of the Assistant Director of Policy and Strategy  
Portfolio of the Executive Member for the Environment and Climate  
Change

**York Green Streets: Identifying opportunities for new non-woodland tree canopy expansion****Summary**

1. The report summarises the outcomes of the York Green Streets (YGS) 'opportunity mapping' exercise undertaken earlier this year to assess the scope for new tree planting in York's urban and peri-urban area towards the council's agreed 2050 tree canopy target.
2. It also outlines suggested next steps and includes a recommendation for the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change.

**Recommendation/s**

3. The Executive Member is asked to:
  - i. Note the contents of the report and progress made to date, including the council's recent bid for Forestry Commission Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (WCAF) revenue grant to support additional officer capacity for new urban and peri-urban tree planting.
  - ii. Subject to a successful WCAF bid, support a recommendation for delegated authority to the Assistant Director for Policy and Strategy to identify and apply for external capital funding to support delivery of the opportunities identified.

**Background**

4. On 5 May 2021, the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change agreed a new tree canopy expansion target for York to feed into the regional (West and North Yorkshire) White

Rose Forest Plan. The target is to increase York's tree canopy cover from 10.8% currently to 13% by 2050. The target roughly equates to 21ha of new tree canopy cover in York each year.

5. Land purchased in the west of the city has led to the creation of the new 78ha York Community Woodland accommodating circa 210,000 new trees – one for each resident of York. Through its partnership with Forestry England, the project is on course to deliver the first 50,000 trees by 31 March 2023, in line with Council Plan 2019-23 commitments. York was also awarded Queens Green Canopy 'Champion City' status for 2022, in return for pledging to actively promote new tree planting activity. As part of this, the council oversaw the successful distribution of 500 free trees to York residents earlier this year.
6. To better understand the scope for non-woodland canopy expansion within York's urban and peri-urban areas, a £25,000 revenue grant from the White Rose Forest (WRF) partnership was secured. The grant did not include funding for the purchase, planting and ongoing maintenance of new trees.
7. Groundwork Yorkshire (GY) was appointed through open procurement to undertake this work over a twelve-week period beginning February 2022. The tender design and project contract management was undertaken by a YGS project group comprising officers from the council's Public Realm and Carbon Reduction teams.

### **YGS opportunity mapping – Overview of key findings**

8. The council identified an initial list of potential new tree planting locations based on knowledge of York's existing urban treescape. Further to this, GY invited all Ward councillors, Parish and Town councils and schools to suggest locations they felt might be suitable for new trees.
9. Just over 80 locations were put forward, including 13 school sites. GY visited each location to assess its suitability for tree planting. This process, known as 'ground-truthing', involved assessing the physical or other barriers to tree planting, such as the presence of underground services and nearby utilities.
10. GY, in collaboration with YGS project team, developed an expanded Red / Amber / Green (R.A.G) rating system, as detailed below, designed to show the technical feasibility of each location for new tree planting.

<b>Rating</b>	<b>Description</b>
Green	Confident to plant
Grey / Green	Hard tarmac / Cobbles / Confident to plant
Light amber	Only one service running near to location
Grey / Light amber	Hard tarmac / Cobbles / Only one service running nearby
Dark amber	More than one service running near to location
Grey / Dark amber	Hard tarmac / Cobbles / More than one service running nearby
Red	Services too close to tree site / High cost / Too narrow
Black	Service check not completed

11. Of the 81 locations, 64 were assessed as containing Green and/or Light amber rated tree planting opportunities – the most technically feasible - across 16 or York's 21 wards. Taken together, the locations have potential to accommodate almost 4,000 additional trees – with 951 of these being within streets/open spaces and just over 3,000 within school sites. Annex 1 provides a summary of these most technically feasible opportunities by ward area and Annex 2 shows a list of school sites.
12. If Dark amber and Grey/Dark amber rated opportunities were also included as 'most technically feasible' (albeit involving more challenges) then the number of sites would rise to 79, a further 279 trees.
13. Locations assessed as offering little or no scope for new planting have also been clearly documented, for example Bootham (YO30 7DF), which received a combination of Red and Dark amber ratings for the 17 trees originally proposed. This data will be a useful resource to inform future opportunities.
14. Ward areas with the highest number of planting opportunities include Huntington and New Earswick (566) followed by Haxby and Wiggington (124). Of the 64 locations, nine are within the 25% most deprived Lower Super Output Areas nationally according to the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation.
15. GY developed indicative planting schemes for each of the Green and Light amber rated planting opportunities, showing suggested tree numbers, sizes, and species and these are detailed in the YGS Final report.

## Next steps

16. The 64 locations have been digitally mapped within the WRF Geographic Information System (Kompas) as a potential pipeline of tree planting opportunities contributing to the wider WRF regional targets. Mapping opportunities in this way enables overlaying priority issues such as social and economic deprivation, public health (incl. air quality) and flood risk, which could prove useful when making external funding bids to support individual schemes (see below).
17. All ward members, parish councils and schools taking part in the opportunity mapping exercise are now invited to inform the detailed results, providing additional local insight and intelligence.
18. With no capital budget to support new tree planting at scale, to progress schemes through to delivery will require additional work to identify appropriate grant funding opportunities. Indicative outline costs are prepared for each scheme, and these would act as a guide to support funding bids.
19. Tree planting schemes succeed with local community support and prior to seeking capital funding, more detailed stakeholder consultation will take place, including ensuring relevant ward members and Parish/Town councillors are fully involved in any detailed community consultation.
20. On 8 July 2022, an Expression of Interest was submitted to the Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (WCAF) seeking a 100% revenue grant (circa £150,000 over 2.5 years) for new officer capacity within the council's Public Realm team, dedicated to supporting delivery of the YGS opportunities up to March 2025 (three planting seasons).
21. If successful, this capacity would help match YGS schemes to funding sources and support the drafting of bids. This resource would also provide dedicated scheme-based project management to support stakeholder consultation, detailed scheme design, procurement, tree planting and ongoing maintenance. The outcome of this bid will be known by early August.
22. Whilst 64 technically feasible opportunities is a good number, it is worth noting the assessment was not exhaustive and there remains scope for more non-woodland sites to come forward should a longer/wider assessment be undertaken in future.

23. WRF agreed to fund YGS as a regional pilot to help inform future policy and practice - identification of suitable sites being key to WRF ambitions. Insights from the York mapping exercise have been used by WRF to inform a funding proposal to West Yorkshire Combined Authority involving a pitch to the Mayoral 'gainshare' pot to fund a roll-out of York's model across the districts of West Yorkshire.

## **Summary**

24. The YGS opportunity mapping exercise has identified 64 technically feasible planting sites across the city directly addressing one of the key barriers to tree canopy expansion – the availability of suitable sites. Having an identified and evidence-based pipeline of sites puts CYC in a better position to secure external grant funding to support delivery.
25. Much depends on the WCAF bid in terms of how the YGS opportunities move forward. Without the extra capacity offered through the grant, CYC will be constrained and opportunities may not be fully realised within the national tree strategy grant funding window (DEFRA's Nature for Climate fund, which sits behind many of the capital funding offers from Forestry Commission and WRF etc. cannot be guaranteed beyond March 2025).

## **Consultation**

26. YGS mapping exercise has developed in consultation with carbon reduction and public realm officers. In addition, GY invited all Ward councillors, Parish and Town councils and schools to suggest locations they felt might be suitable for new trees.
27. As paragraph 19 outlines, it will be important to ensure those living near to any proposed planting schemes are fully consulted prior to the development of detailed delivery plans so each scheme to better understand local insight and intelligence.

## **Recommendation/s**

28. The Executive Member is asked to:
  1. Note the contents of the report and the progress made to date, including the pending WCAF grant funding application to support

additional officer capacity for new urban and peri urban tree planting.

- II. Grant delegated authority to the Assistant Director for Policy and Strategy to identify and apply for external capital funding to support delivery of the opportunities identified, following further extensive local stakeholder engagement.

## **Implications**

- **Financial**

*29. There are no immediate implications associated directly with this report, though clearly any additional future tree planting undertaken by CYC would also require ongoing long-term management and maintenance resource to support. Indicative costs are being sought from the council's Public Realm team to inform an estimate based on different numbers of new trees delivered. Some external grants allow for several years of establishment (management and maintenance) after that the tree becomes the responsibility of the landowner/operator.*

- **Human Resources (HR)**

*30. A successful WCAF funding bid would enable CYC to employ additional officers on a fixed-term basis (for the duration of grant funding) to help take forward Green Street opportunities. This would be done in accordance with the council's Human Resources policies and procedures.*

- **Equalities**

*31. No implications associated with this report.*

- **Legal**

*32. A successful WCAF funding bid would require CYC to enter into a grant agreement with the Forestry Commission and this would be done with all necessary input and advice from the council's legal team.*

- **Crime and Disorder**

*33. No implications associated with this report*

- **Information Technology (IT)**

*34. No implications associated with this report*

- **Property**

*35. No implications associated with this report*

- **Risk Management**

*36. No implications associated with this report*

## **Contact Details**

### **Author/s**

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### **Report Approved**

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**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate: ALL*

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

**Background Papers:**

- *York Green Streets report 2022- available on request*
- *York Tree Canopy Target – EDMS report 5 May 2021*

**Annexes**

- *Annex 1: Tree planting opportunities assessed as R.A.G. rating 'Green' and 'Light Amber' by Ward area*
- *Annex 2: School sites*



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## Annex 1.

## Summary of the most technically feasible planting opportunities by ward area

Ward	WC/PR/PC suggestion	Ref.	Location	Postcode	X	Y	Green rated opportunities (No. of trees)	Light amber rated opportunities (No. of trees)	Grey/Green rated opportunities (No. of trees)	Grey/Light amber rated opportunities (No. of trees)	Total No. of trees in location
Acomb	WC	W24	Wheatlands Grove	YO26 5QS	457094	452649			9		9
	WC	W25	Ostman Road (west)	YO26 5QA	457232	452205	5	11			16
	WC	W26	Ostman Road (east)	YO26 5QA	457381	452175		5			5
	PR	16	Beckfield Lane (south)	YO26 2TH	456840	451750			6		6
	PR	17	Beckfield Lane (mid south)	YO26 5PW	456867	452193			1		1
	PR	18	Beckfield lane (mid north)	YO26 5QT	456916	452825			2		2
	PR	19	Beckfield Lane (north)	YO26 5QT	456925	452922			2		2
Bishopthorpe	WC	W9	Bishopthorpe Road	YO23 2QD	459595	448220	14				14
	WC	W10	Church Lane	YO23 2SZ	459406	447807	10				10
Clifton	WC	W17	Burdyke Avenue	YO30 6JX	459664	453791	1				1
	WC	W18	Crombie Avenue	YO30 6DN	459640	453373		10			10
	WC	W19	Rowntree Avenue	YO30 6HF	460181	453978	12				12
Copmanthorpe	WC	W8	Horseman Lane Junction	YO23 3UA	456447	447047	8				8
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe											
Fishergate	WC	W1	Kexby Ave	YO10 3HF	461728	451157			2		2
	WC	W2	Thief Lane	YO10 3HS	461922	451094			3		3
	WC	W2.2	Thief Lane	YO10 3HT	462063	451113	1	6			7
Fulford and Heslington	WC	W30	Heslington Lane (east)	YO30 4ND	461729	449624	5		9		14
Guildhall	PR	2	Lawrence Street	YO10 3BU	461306	451094			5		5
Haxby and Wiggington	WC	W22e	Windsor Drive East	YO32 2EY	459930	458694	3				3
	WC	W23	York Road (far south)	YO31 1JN	460601	453284	1		6		7
	WC	W23	York Road (south)	YO31 7EL	460305	452723		14			14
	WC	W23	York Road (mid)	YO31 8JU	460561	453051			26		26
	WC	W23	York Road (north)	YO31 8JP	460609	453331			18		18
	WC	W31	Ploughlands	YO32 2YL	460402	457495	7				7
	WC	W32	Forestgate Oakland (west)	YO32 2YL	460428	457420	2		1		3
	WC	W33	Forestgate Oakland (east)	YO32 2WT	460513	457342	4		6		10
	WC	W34	Towthorpe Road (lower)	YO32 3LZ	461573	458263	1		17		18
	WC	W35	Towthorpe Road (upper)	YO32 3NA	461676	458565	2		14		16
	PC	P4	Churchfields	YO32 2DG	460148	458413	2				2
	Heworth	WC	W6	Penyghent Ave	YO31 0QJ	462427	452281	1		2	
WC		W7	Heworth Hall Drive	YO31 1AN	461941	452608	1		7		8
WC		W15	Hempland Ave	YO31 1DD	461883	452807			3		3
WC		W16	Elmfield Ave	YO31 9LX	461728	453748			4		4
WC		W20	Heworth Road	YO31 0AA	461600	452787			3		3
WC		W21	Belfarm Ave	YO31 9BQ	461171	453866			1	4	5
PR		7	Heworth (north)	YO31 0TY	461763	452381	2				2
PR		8	Heworth (south)	YO31 0PN	462139	451990			4		4
Heworth Without		PC	P2	Stray Road	YO31 0ND	462781	452765			1	
Holgate										0	
Hull Road	PR	11	Burlington Avenue	YO10 3TD	462067	451720			3		3
Huntington and New Earswick	WC	W13	Malton Road	YO32 9TD	462608	454365	530				530
	PC	P5	Huntington Sports Club	YO32 9RZ	461991	456012	15	11			26
	PC	P6	Environment Park	YO32 9RQ	461679	456443	10				10
Micklegate	WC	W14	St Benedits Road	YO23 1YA	45999	451039	2				2
	PR	5	The Mount. Mount Vale	YO24 1DU	459268	450861			2		2
	PR	6	The Mount. Tadcaster Road	YO24 1DL	459222	450783			6		6
Osbalwick and Derwent											
Rawcliffe and Clifton Without	PC	P8	Greenwich Close	YO30 5WN	462139	451990	8				8
Rural West York	WC	W12	Brecksfield South	YO30 1YG	457367	456211	26		1		27
	PC	P3	149 Main Street	YO23 3QS	454840	448341	1				1
Strensall											
Westfield	WC	W27	Askham Lane	YO24 3JA	456525	450193			17		17
	WC	W28	Foxwood Lane	YO24 3LR	457072	449995	33		1		34
	PR	12	Tudor Road	YO24 3AZ	457547	450830			1		1
Wheldrake											

## KEY:

Ref.s in red font/WC = Ward Cllr suggestion

Ref.s in blue font/PR = CYC Public Realm 'street' suggestion

Ref.s in purple font/PC = Parish/Town Council suggestion

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## Annex 2.

## Summary of school based opportunities (100% rated Green)

School	Ref.	Ward	Postcode	Green rated opportunities (No. of trees)
Elvington Primary	1S	Wheldrake	YO41 4HP	268
Our Lady's Queen of Martyrs Primary	2S	Holgate	YO24 4JW	480
St Barnabas CoE Primary	3S	Holgate	YO26 4YZ	28
Lakeside Primary	4S	Rawcliffe and Clifton Without	YO30 4YL	410
Osbalwick Primary	5aS	Osbalwick and Derwent	YO10 3AX	21
Osbalwick Infants	5bS	Osbalwick and Derwent	YO10 3PR	247
Carr Infants	6S	Acomb	YO26 5QA	447
Skelton Primary	7S	Rural West York	YO30 1YB	738
Stockton on the Forest Primary	8S	Strensall	YO32 9UP	82
Robert Wilkinson Primary	9S	Strensall	YO32 5UH	119
Copmanthorpe Primary	10S	Copmanthorpe	YO32 3SB	35
St Paul's CoE Primary (DECLINED)	11S	Holgate	YO24 4BJ	0
Burton Green Primary	12S	Clifton	YO30 6JE	68
Badger Hill Primary	13S	Hull Road	YO10 5JP	60
				<b>3,003</b>

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