



**Notice of a public meeting of
Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance, Performance,
Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion
Meeting to be held in consultation with the Executive Member for
Children, Young People and Education (for agenda item 4 Welfare
Benefits and Financial Inclusion Outturn Report 2023/24)**

To: Councillor Lomas (Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion) and Webb (Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education)

Date: Thursday, 19 September 2024

Time: 10.00 am

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

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 **4:00pm on 26 September 2024**.

*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 items that are called in will be considered by the Corporate Services, Climate Change & Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5:00pm on Tuesday 17 September 2024**.

1. Declarations of Interest (Pages 1 - 2)

At this point in the meeting, Members and co-opted 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. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members].

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Finance, Performance, Major Projects and Equalities Executive Member Decision Sessions held on 24 April 2024.

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. The deadline for registering at this meeting is at **5.00pm on Tuesday 17 September 2024**.

To register to speak please visit 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.

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

**4. Welfare Benefits and Financial Inclusion (Pages 5 - 62)
Outturn Report 2023/24**

This report provides the Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion in consultation with the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education with the Financial Inclusion/Welfare Benefits outturn report 2023/24.

5. Application for Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act 2011 (Pages 63 - 90)

This report details applications to renew the listing of the following properties as Assets of Community Value (ACV) for consideration by the Council.

a) The Golden Ball Public House, 2 Cromwell Road York. An application has been received from the Friends of The Golden Ball.

b) The Blue Bell Public House, 53 Fossgate, York. An application has been received from the 'Regulars at the Blue Bell'.

c) Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road, Strensall Camp. An application has been received from Strensall Parish Council.

6. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democratic Services Officer

Angela Bielby

Contact Details:

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Email – a.bielby@york.gov.uk

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.

Alternative formats

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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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Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations,

and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects and Equalities
Date	25 April 2024
Present	Councillors Lomas
Officers in Attendance	David Walker - Head of Customer & Exchequer Services Susan Wood - Welfare Benefits and Strategic Partnership Manager

21. Declarations of Interest (15:00)

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 that she might have had in respect of business on the agenda. None were declared.

22. Minutes (15:00)

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Sessions of the Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, and Equalities held on 19 March 2024 be approved and signed by the Executive Member as a correct record.

23. Public Participation (15:01)

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

24. Household Support Fund 5 (15:02)

Officers introduced the report regarding the Household Support Fund 5 funding the Council was set to receive from government. It was confirmed that the funding is to provide crisis support to vulnerable households in most need. The funding received was in line with previous amounts received pro rata for 6 months and not a full year. It was confirmed that the funding was separate to Council's own York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS) funding and presented little financial risk to the Council.

The Executive Member noted her disappointment that the funding provided by central government was only for 6 months, but highlighted that the Council's own York Financial Assistance Scheme had been topped up with an additional £50 of funding. She approved the proposals within the report noting the importance of using the funding in the most efficient way possible.

Resolved:

- i. Approved the HSF5 scheme as set out at paragraph 12 – 17 within the report and in further detail within Annex B.

Reason: To help alleviate the ongoing cost of living pressures being experienced by financially vulnerable residents.

Cllr Lomas, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 3.10 pm].



Meeting:	Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, and Equalities
Meeting date:	19/09/2024
Report of:	Director of Housing and Communities
Portfolio of:	Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, and Equalities Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

Decision Report: Financial Inclusion/Welfare Benefits Outturn 2023/24 and progress 2024/25

Subject of Report

1. This report provides the Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects and Equalities in consultation with the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education with the Financial Inclusion/Welfare Benefits outturn report 2023/24.
2. An Interim Financial Inclusion Strategy 2023/25 building on partners' overall assessment of key challenges, ambitions and priorities was approved on 13 March 2023 by the then Executive Member for Finance & Major Projects. The report and action plan can be found here:
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=875&MIId=13518&Ver=4>
3. This report provides an update on the financial inclusion (FI) activity during 2023/24 including:
 - the financial support available to residents dealing with the challenges of the increased cost living in 2023/24 and moving into 2024/25;
 - an update on benefits statistics and performance administered by the council including the York Financial Assistance Scheme; and

- other areas of support for residents which support financial inclusion and stability including:
 - Community, housing, advice, information, signposting and communications;
 - Digital inclusion activities; and
 - Delivery of the financial inclusion grant schemes.

Benefits and Challenges

4. It is clear to the council and partners that the ongoing rise in the Cost of Living along with other factors such as Housing and NHS capacity is continuing to have a detrimental effect on residents in the city, impacting on health and well-being; with increasing numbers of residents needing financial support and presenting with vulnerabilities and complex needs. Welfare benefits and broader community support are complicated for people to navigate, and the systems rely on people managing their own claims and having access to digital resources. This report summarises these impacts and action the council and partners are taking to help support residents in these increasingly challenging times.

Policy Basis for Decision

5. Financial Inclusion and welfare benefits are key to meeting the aims of the Council Plan for 2023 to 2027, 'One City For All' which sets out the council's priorities and details what steps will be taken over the next 4 years to establish conditions which make the city of York a healthier, fairer, more affordable, more sustainable and more accessible place, where everyone feels valued, creating more regional opportunities to help today's residents and benefit future generations. The four core commitments of the plan are:
 - Equalities and Human Rights - Equality of opportunity
 - Affordability - Tackling the cost-of-living crisis
 - Climate - Environment and the climate emergency
 - Health - Health and wellbeing.

Financial Strategy Implications

6. This report has no direct implications with regards to the council's financial strategy. Pressures in 2024/25 relate particularly to the council's social fund York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS).

This has been capped in terms of monthly spend and individual awards for the 2024/25 year through an officer decision taken on 3 July 2024

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7156> and the Executive Member is asked to note this decision within this report.

Recommendation and Reasons

7. The Executive Member is asked to:
 - i) Note and comment on the details of this report with regard to providing support to residents during the ongoing cost of living crisis.
 - ii) Note the capping of the monthly spend from YFAS and reduction in individual awards to ensure the council can continue to provide emergency support to the end of the 2024/25 financial year.
 - iii) Delegate any decision-making relating to any extended or new Household Support Fund requirements to the Director of Finance.

Reason: to ensure councillors, residents and stakeholder groups are aware of the ongoing financial inclusion activity across the city. The use of associated funding including cost of living support and their impacts.

Background

8. The council's core commitments provide a vision of a healthier, fairer, more affordable, more sustainable, and more accessible city where everyone feels valued. They inform the decisions we make, and describe how we then work with partners, residents and communities to deliver our priorities for residents, communities and businesses.
9. In May 2024, there were 2,992 households that were in relative poverty including 1,909 children within the city. The poverty line used in these calculations is defined as 60% of median household income, (sourced from the ONS website) which is currently £1,615. Across all these households there is £340,473 of Council Tax arrears, Rent Arrears, and Housing Benefit Overpayments (Annex A). This background information helps in understanding the level of

the challenge in the city that the council's welfare benefit resource has to support.

10. The council provides a range of local welfare support to residents through the York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS), Council Tax Support (CTS) and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). The Household Support Fund (HSF) from Government also provides financial resources to support residents with the pressures they are facing due to the increases in cost-of-living. The council also continues to operate a food and fuel voucher scheme open to all residents.
11. The needs of residents are broader and more complex than in the past. Services across the council have collaborated and adapted to respond to increased needs and challenges facing residents, alongside the budget constraints of the council's financial situation. Additional cost of living targeted funding has been made available by central government (HSF); however, this has specific criteria, requiring local development and implementation. This support was delivered with no additional staff resource at a time, as in other areas of the council, retention and recruitment continues to be challenging.
12. Council departments continue to work in close partnership with voluntary and community organisations to co-ordinate, make the best use of the resources and effectively support residents. The council has continued to learn from experiences and those of residents, partners and from areas across the region and wider country.

York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS)

13. The YFAS scheme was established in April 2013, following the transfer of responsibility (and initially funding) from central government. The former national scheme, delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), was part of the Social Fund. YFAS is now fully funded and locally administered by the council and can assist residents to stay or move into the community or with emergencies.
14. The budget outturn is set out at Table 1 below. The full YFAS statistics are set out at Annex B. The CYC budget for YFAS has remained at the same level in 2023/24 as the previous year. Funding from the Household Support Fund was allocated to support the increase in need.

15. In 2023/24 1,223 YFAS applications were received. This is a decrease of 232 on 2022/23. The alternative support via Household Support Fund (HSF) payments and the CYC Food & Fuel Voucher Scheme have reduced applications to YFAS. However, the demand is continuing to rise in 2024/25 with the current project outturn at 235% based on figures at 19th July. Early action has been taken to reduce grants for resettlement to £500, limit number of claims to 1 a year (from 2) and to cap the monthly spend to £20,000 as identified by the officer decision described in paragraph 6 above. The projected overspend will be funded from HSF in the first 6 months of the year (see paragraph 23 below).
16. The average award value has increased from £499 in 2022/23 to £635. This is due to an increase in the cost of the items provided and, the level of need facing applicants. For example, there have been significant increases in awards for white goods, flooring, and furniture. Lack of flooring is having a greater impact on households now due to the rise in energy costs.
17. Table 1 below sets out all the YFAS spend provided across the 2023/24 period:

Support	Spend 2023/24	Budget 2023/24	%
YFAS scheme	£354,307 *	£250,000	142

*Funding from HSF was used to balance the YFAS budget

Household Support Fund (HSF)

18. The Government first announced the Household Support Fund (HSF) for families in financial need in October 2021 following coronavirus support funds. HSF schemes have been one off temporary fixed term schemes each with different criteria. The HSF 4 scheme was confirmed in February 2023 for the financial year 2023/24 and City of York Council was allocated £2,075,812.
19. The Household Support Fund was introduced to support households in the most need with food, energy, and water bills. It could also be used to support households with essential costs related to these items and with wider essential costs where appropriate.
20. The guidance for HSF4 (1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024) set out that:

“The Fund should be used to support households in the most need; particularly those who may not be eligible for the other support government has recently made available but who are nevertheless in need and who require crisis support. There may be groups who are vulnerable to rising prices even though they are supported through these schemes, for example large families or single-income families. It is important to stress that The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people.”

21. Following on from previous HSF schemes support was provided through direct payments, discretionary applications and direct grants. In terms of direct payments £1.3m was paid to approximately 4,000 qualifying families in two payments directly into their bank accounts across the year. A full breakdown of all payments is as set out in Table 2 below:

Table 2 HSF4 Spend

Area	Spend
Working Age invite applications	£ 1,326,080
Discretionary Applications	£ 93,607
Food/Fuel Vouchers	£ 47,813
Care Leavers	£ 25,000
Foster Carers	£ 25,000
York Energy Action	£ 10,000
Interest Free Loans	£ 10,000
Advice Worker & admin	£ 40,000
Warm Spaces	£ 40,000
Admin Costs	£ 50,000
Second CTS Award (£25)	£71,000
Data analysis	£31,300
CTS Energy Support (£25)	£145,000
Warm Spaces Food Support	£60,000
YFAS Balancing	£ 111,121
Total Spend	£2,085,921

22. The Second CTS award (£25) was in addition to a direct government Grant for 2023/24 that had already provided a payment of £25 to all Council Tax Support Customers earlier in the year.
23. The interest free loans were a Credit Union initiative to support residents within the community. The scheme is administered by the

credit union and for the HSF4 scheme the money is deemed as spent.

24. The government announced in March 2024 a further HSF5 scheme of £1,037,000 was to be provided for 6 months from April 2024 to September 2024. Table 3 below sets out the spend as at 17th July 2024:

25. Table 3 – HSF 5 Spend

Area	Budget	Spend
Support with Council Tax for working age CTS customers £110 per qualifying resident	-£ 500,000	£ 494,120
Discretionary application scheme	-£ 200,000	£ 48,170
Food & Fuel Vouchers	-£ 200,000	£ 100,000
Community Food support	-£ 40,000	£ 40,000
York Energy Advice	-£ 10,000	£ 10,000
Administration including support for two Talk Money campaigns.	-£ 50,000	£ 50,000
Contingency	-£ 37,000	£ 2,400
Total	-£ 1,037,000	£ 744,690

26. The residual balance of HSF by the end of September 2024 is expected to be approximately £200k and will be used to fund the current predicted YFAS overspend. This will ensure YFAS funding will be available to qualifying residents until the end of March 2024.
27. On 2nd September 2024 the new Government has announced that there will be an extension to HSF5 for another 6 months with details to be released over coming weeks. As it is imperative that there is no break in support available to residents, the Executive Members are requested to approve a delegation to officers to respond to any new parameters set by Government and to either produce a new scheme for delivering the new HSF funding and/or amend areas of proposed spend. The announcement is available here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-support-extended-to-help-struggling-households-with-bills-and-essential-costs-over-winter>

Food and Fuel Voucher Scheme

28. The York Fuel and Food Voucher scheme was initially set up using funding from both Government grant (HSF) and one-off council budget £250k in January 2022. The scheme provides food and fuel vouchers delivered through advice support workers from both CYC and charity /voluntary sector. It is an important element of the scheme that these are provided to York residents affected by poverty and debt alongside information and advice on benefits and other longer-term support.
29. Applications can only be considered as part of an overall financial capability advice or support assessment, by phone or face to face, including as appropriate benefits checks and other information about reducing out goings, e.g. social tariffs for broadband, energy efficiency measures.
30. If people need assistance with food and do not want a referral/signposting to a support service or this is not appropriate, they are directed to other food support including:
- York Financial Assistance Scheme,
 - York Food Bank or
 - community food support.
- More information is available at www.york.gov.uk/HelpWithFood .
31. Fuel vouchers awards have been allocated at standard award amounts of:
- Before July 2023:
 - 1 x £28 for a single person household
 - 1 x £49 for a two or more-person household
 - From 12 July 2023*:
 - £56 for a single person household
 - £98 for a two or more-person household.
32. CYC Food Vouchers are available for use at ASDA, Tesco, Morrisons, Aldi, Farmfoods, Iceland or Sainsburys (From April 23). Food vouchers awards have been allocated at standard award amounts of:
- Before July 2023:
 - 1 x £30 for a single person household
 - 1 x £60 for a household of two to five people

1 x £100 for a household of six people or more

- From 12 July 2023*:

1 x £60 for a single person household

1 x £100 for a household of two to five people

1 x £150 for a household of six people or more

*Decision available here:

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6887>

33. Approved voucher applications are sent electronically directly to the resident by text or email. Households could receive a maximum of 3 food vouchers and 3 fuel voucher awards from the scheme during 2023/24 . Anyone needing further assistance over and above the 3 vouchers can apply for additional support via York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS) at www.york.gov.uk/YFAS or York Food Bank as appropriate. Payments are summarised in Annex B.

34. There are 8 external support service partners in the scheme from the charity/voluntary sector, plus CYC teams including Local Area Coordinators, Benefits & Contributions Advisors, and Housing Management Officers. Over 80 support workers are registered to process applications to award vouchers. Over 4800 vouchers were issued in 2023/24 as set out at Table 4 below:

Table 4. Food and Fuel vouchers

	No of vouchers	Cost including admin fee
Food vouchers	3240	£192,099
Fuel vouchers	1587	£124,064

See Annex C for more details

Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) data platform

35. Funding from the Household Support Fund (HSF4) has been used to establish a one-year partnership with Policy in Practice to use their Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) platform to support the council’s financial inclusion work. LIFT is a web based interactive tool that combines a comprehensive welfare policy analytics engine with local authority administrative data to drive strategic and operational decisions and activity. The tool supports councils

through providing interactive dashboards to identify financially struggling residents, design appropriate interventions, and track the effectiveness of these interventions. The tool is being used to:

- Identify and access information on which households need support;
- Understand and improve residents' financial resilience and reduce poverty gaps;
- Make data-driven decisions to target support to:
 - Reduce problem debt, possible eviction/homelessness, food and fuel poverty
 - Increase household's income from benefits and other support
 - Maximise income and avoid costs by preventing vulnerability earlier.
- Track and monitor the effectiveness of council strategies aimed at preventing or reducing poverty.

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

36. The council received £163,991 in government funding for DHPs in 2023/24. Table 5 below shows the 2023/24 spend and number of applications received (see also Annex B).

Table 5. Discretionary Housing Payment

	2022/23	2023/24
Total DHP Fund available	£164,640	£163,991
Amount spent	£175,195	£163,991
Percentage	107%	100%
DHP applications received	308	312
Number of DHPs awarded	258	195

Council Tax Support (CTS)

37. The number of CTS awards amongst working age residents, after rising during the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, has fallen to pre-pandemic levels, as shown in Table 6 below. CTS claims, however, are still comparatively lower than Universal Credit (UC) claims and claims for pensioners has fallen again indicating that not all qualifying residents (Working age & Pension age) are making claims. Support and advice for pension age claimants are now being targeted by using data from the LIFT platform to help residents maximise their benefits.

Table 6. CTS Caseload

Council Tax Support caseload	Working age	Pensioners	Total
March 2020	4,682	4,034	8,716
March 2021	5,512	3,887	9,399
March 2022	4,685	3,735	8,420
March 2023	4,446	3,572	8,018
March 2024	4,218	3,450	7,668

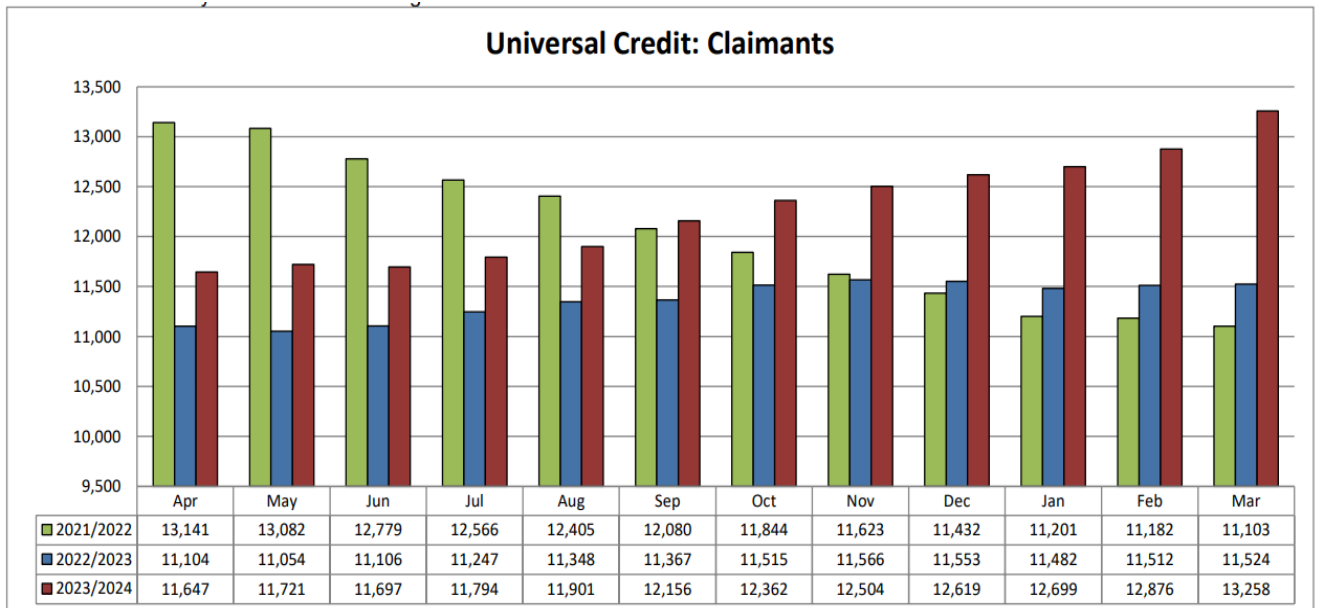
Universal Credit (UC)

38. Support with claiming Universal Credit continues to be provided through [Citizen Advice York - Help to Claim](#) (CAY). The overall UC picture for York as of April 2024 remains high compared to the pre-pandemic position:

- The Job Seeker Allowance/Universal Credit claimant count for York in March 2024 was 2,425.
- In March 2023 the figure was 2,215, this is an increase of 210 (9.5%).
- This represents 1.8% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 4.3% and United Kingdom at 3.9%.
- Female Claimants in York have increased by 130 more than one year ago - a 14.0% increase.

39. The figures set out at paragraph 34 above show the number of residents who are unemployed in the city. Table 7 below sets out the number of residents claiming Universal Credit. The large difference between the numbers reflects the increasing number of residents who are reliant on benefits whilst been in employment.

Table 7: Total Universal Credit Claimants in York



40. Since April 2023 those residents on Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit and not on any other 'legacy benefit' will have been sent a letter ('Migration Notices') inviting them to claim Universal Credit. By the end of 2024 to 2025 tax year the rest of those on tax credits and most other legacy benefits will have received migration notices. The remaining Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) cases and ESA and Housing Benefit cases will be invited in 2028 and 2029. Data from the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) June 2024 estimates, if fully rolled out the transition to UC of remaining customers would mean 36% or 608 households in York will be better off and 59% or 998 households would be worse off, the remaining 5% will remain the same. Households who would be worse off will have transitional protection if they move to UC during the managed migration period.
41. Through funding from the York UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Better Connect and their network of third sector and community partners are working with people who are currently not in work to find employment opportunities and help them get into work. Also, through UKSPF, Momentic are helping develop self-employment as an option for those on UC. Between the two projects, around 270 people will receive practical support to help them increase household incomes.

Work of Welfare Benefits Officers

42. The Income Services Team through its Benefits and Contributions officers have provided advice and support to 547 residents and generated additional welfare benefit gains of £2,986,130 in 2023/24.

Pension Credit Take Up

43. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) data shows Pension Credit numbers for York in Table 8 below:

Table 8 – Pension Credit Numbers York

Pension Credit (PC) – latest data Nov 2023				
Elements of PC	Guarantee Credit only	Both Guarantee and Savings Credit	Savings Credit only	Total
<u>York</u>	1,232	1,040	507	2,781

44. Last year Revenues & Benefits team, using Housing Benefit data identified 350 households who could be missing out on Pension Credit. During October, November & December 2023 the council contacted each household by letter. The benefit gain from this work is visible in the LIFT system and the details are as follows:

- 72 new households are now claiming Pension Credit;
- Pension Credit annual value is £218,383, with the annual average per household gain being £3,033;
- The back dated Pension Credit value is worth £48,044;
- 8 of these households are now entitled to a free TV licence worth (£169.50 per household) totalling £1,356;
- 7 carers are now claiming Pension Credit.

45. Policy in Practice (PiP) research shows that helping carers with additional income enables them to care for longer, so then delaying or reducing care costs councils may have to pick up. Taking an average care package cost of £30,000 per household, this research suggests that councils can avoid or delay an additional £210,000 in care costs per household.

46. In York, the average life expectancy is 81 years and the current average age of York residents claiming Pension Credit is 75 years. Therefore, taking the Pension Credit numbers at table 8 above based on the likely lifetime amounts they will receive, the Pension Credit Campaign would bring an additional £1.3m into the pockets of residents.

CYC is now using LIFT data to identify people in York who are missing out on Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance developing a plan with partners to encourage and support people to apply.

Information, signposting, and communications

47. It is increasingly important that residents know about what support is available if they are struggling financially and where to get advice and assistance to secure/ apply for benefits, grants and other financial support. The pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis have seen the introduction of a range of financial support, often time limited, as well as changes to ongoing benefits.
48. To help with this York Talk Money was created in 2021 to support people struggling financially. The Advice York partnership came together to host a month of activities, events, and signposting to resources. This includes advice and support from partners including, Older Citizens Advocacy York, York Energy Advice, Stop Loan Sharks, and Community First Credit Union.
49. The partnership merged two national campaigns into a month of action in York called Challenge Poverty – Talk Money Month, with the aim to help residents:
- Feel more confident about managing money
 - Know where to get good information and advice
 - Know what financial support is available and how to get it
 - Get the best deal on gas, electricity, and internet bills
 - Find good debt advice.
50. To support the campaign the council set up an information page on www.livewellyork/talkmoney providing a pool of resources from a range of experts and promoting advice and support available at community hubs. This is an ongoing resource and has been the most visited page on www.livewellyork.gov.uk.

51. The initial campaign was successful and following the positive outcomes further week-long promotions were held on:
- Monday 26 June to Friday 3 July 2023
 - Monday 30 October to Friday 11 November 2023
 - Monday 29 January to Friday 5 February 2024
52. The council continues to work with the Independent Food Aid Network to develop the 'Worrying About Money' guide. This has been distributed across the city including libraries, community centres and support services.
53. The partnership has agreed to continue the York Talk Money campaign in 2024/25 as an important way to support people through the continuing cost of living crisis. The campaign has and will take place during the following weeks, in the lead up to the summer holidays, Christmas and February half term:
- Monday 8 July to Friday 19 July 2024
 - Monday 4 November to Friday 15 November 2024
 - Monday 20 January to 31 January 2025

Early Support Fund

54. The Early Support Fund is an externally funded small fund available to Local Area Coordinators (LACs), Housing Management Officers and Community teams to support residents who face additional barriers, such as people with long term health needs, families, older people, and single people in private rented accommodation. A key focus is on homelessness and debt prevention, including those in rent and council tax arrears.
55. The Early Support Fund can provide a flexible grant to families identified as needing assistance to improve their overall financial position and reduce inequalities created by or exacerbated by the negative effects of the increased cost of living. This grant is one small part of an overall action plan to secure the longer-term financial security, social inclusion, and wellbeing of residents. In this way it will contribute to creating resilient citizens and communities. Early Support Grants are not emergency grants. Where there is an emergency, applications should be made to York Financial Assistance Scheme

56. The fund is being run jointly across Local Area Coordinators, Housing and Communities. A new online application process with the web went live in September 2022. This joint approach has worked well and demonstrated collaborative working across departments.

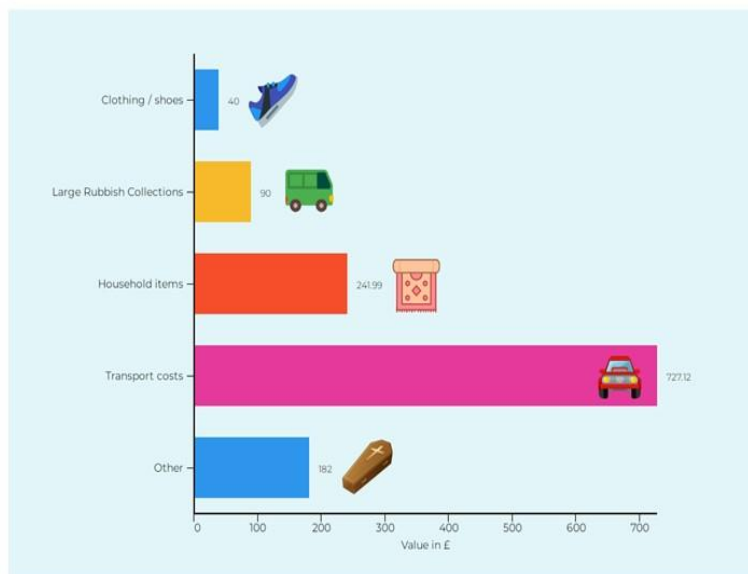
57. An application to the Belfry Catalyser Fund for additional funding for 2024/25 to support this work was successful. Funding of £15,000 was agreed in July 2023. Table 9 & 10 below details of how the funding has been spent:

Table 9 – Details of Claims



Table 10 – Spend Examples

An example of some of the items the Early Support Fund has funded –
underpinned by choice and control



Clothing / shoes – to cover clothing or shoes for employment or school uniform

Large Rubbish Collections – to cover the costs for the Cleansing Team to remove and safely dispose of large items and bags of mouldy clothes or gardening waste

Household items – covers blinds for privacy, a video doorbell to provide security and garden equipment to help maintain tenancies

Transport costs – includes taxis to attend medical appointments where there were no community transport options and removal fees

Other – includes burial fees.

Council Tax Debt Project

58. During 2022/23 a HSF funded debt pilot was undertaken; the output of which was produced in 2023/24. The premise of the project was that the council recognised that non-payment/arrears of council tax can indicate residents are facing other issues in their lives for example other debts, and complex health and/or family relationship problems. If the council can get a better understanding of all the issues including council tax debt and offer broader wrap-around support this could provide longer term benefits for residents, prevent further debt, improve wellbeing, reduce administration and lead to more resilient and positive personal and community outcomes.

59. Work is planned to take place through 2024/25 on the following recommendations of this project to help residents affected by debt and address the broader linked issues within communities:

- To set up a multi-agency debt group including community sector partners – to establish support and understanding of all the issues being raised by residents.
- To potentially establish Debt surgeries at West Offices following issue of Council Tax (CT) reminders – there is little resource for one-to-one support across the city so establishing a surgery

with partners may help in dealing with a larger number of residents issues.

- To issue text messages to all residents getting CT reminders about continuing to pay something and inviting them to attend a debt surgery, in order to prevent residents getting further into arrears through the recovery process and provide broader advice and support.
- To review the wording on CT reminders and summons and pilot alternative wording to see if there is any beneficial effect. This also responds to and supports recent comments from the Poverty Truth Commission.

60. Linked to this, data from LIFT is being used to identify residents who may be missing out on Council Tax Support to target information, advice and support.

Community Hubs

61. The Communities Team continues to support community hubs across the city. The Good Place Network, brings together those individuals and groups running community hubs, venues and food projects across the city. This network has continued to grow in membership. The Communities Team supports and facilitates meetings and regularly shares information updates on campaigns, resources, funding, good practice and volunteer development opportunities.

62. A meeting of the Good Place Network was held in January 2024 to discuss the current landscape of support available to residents, gather intelligence from community groups and food projects about any pressures and share experiences and good practice. Since the meeting volunteers at the Collective Sharehouse have been supported to undertake 'Money Guiders' training to boost the capacity of volunteers to support and signpost those accessing the project and to trial the approach with a view to rolling it out to other members of the Good Place Network.

63. A further meeting of the Good Place Network was held in June 2024 to prepare to support residents over the Summer period and share resources and good practice.

Warm Hubs

64. During the colder winter months December 2023 to March 2024, 28 community organisations across 15 wards were supported through a Good Place Warm Place grant fund. This represented an increase of settings and reach across the city from the Good Place Warm Place Grant programme 2022/23 which saw 19 organisations supported across 12 wards. The funding could be used to support new community offers or adapt or maintain current offers across the city. Eligible expense included utilities, food, equipment and project delivery costs. In this way a network of warm welcoming places was supported across the city. Information regarding Warm Places was made available to residents via the CYC website with a link to a dedicated listing guide on Live Well York. There is currently no funding identified to run a similar Good Place Warm Place programme over Winter 2024/25, as this has been HSF funded in the past (see recent announcement on HSF extension that may change this). Whilst councils have been waiting for any further HSF announcements organisations have been directed to ward funds managed by local ward councillors and the new York Community Fund as potential sources of grants in the autumn/winter months of 2024/25.

Food Sufficiency and Holidays Activities and Food (HAF)

65. The Community Officers and the Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) Programme Coordinator continue to work together to ensure maximum benefit from available resources. They ensure that activity providers and the Good Place Network members have up to date information in order to fulfill their requirement to signpost families to support. Through visits and post programme monitoring they gather feedback from providers and participants on emerging themes and current challenges facing families as well as ensuring quality provision. Community Officers work with ward members to develop and fund free universal access to further develop the holiday activity offer across the city often linking local food projects up with activity providers to further enhance what is available to families and showcase what is on offer year round. Also directly running activities to add capacity into the system and address identified gaps in provision.
66. During December 2023 and early January 2024 the Communities Team ran a programme of food, household essentials and toys

support for families. The team based itself at Westfield Childrens Centre and space offered free of charge at The Island. The team bagged and distributed over 1,000 bags of food and toiletries and 1,000s of toys via community food projects and community events. Front line workers were invited to pick up what was need for the families that they were working with which meant that support could be bespoke to those families and individual children. This included good quality preloved toys donated by Yorwaste and new toys from York City Football Club Foundation. The food and household items were purchased from the Household Support Fund. The team is currently working with community food projects to 'top up' projects with essential non-perishable food items in order to boost local support for families over this period.

67. The number of individual children and young people attending HAF activities during the Easter School Holidays 2024 was 1151 compared to 1740 during the same period in 2023. Whilst there was a dip in the number of individual children attending, those who did participate in the programme attended more sessions, average number of sessions attended per participant over Easter in 2024 was 4.16 sessions compared to 2.75 sessions over Easter 2023. The range of activities on offer continues to increase and with a focus on new and premium experiences and connection to the city's cultural attractions a focus for Summer 2024 as well as the tried and tested popular offers. The Communities Team ialso directly delivered two family fun days one at either end of the Summer 2024 school holidays which were open access and did not require HAF eligible families to use their credits to access.
68. A centralised booking system was procured and was operational in time to support the local Holiday Activity and Food 2023 Summer Programme. The booking system has increased the reach and accessibility of the programme with credits issued via existing school systems to eligible families. Schools and other frontline settings working with families also have the opportunity to add in additional children under a 15% eligibility stretch within the HAF programme. There is also a contact point for individuals looking for support in accessing the programme as well as a strong link with the Family Information Service Team.

Housing Update

69. Arrears at March 2023 were £1,835,051.76 and increased further throughout the following year until December where the reduction commenced until the end of the financial year. In March 2024 rent

arrears decreased to £1,505,500.78 an overall reduction of 17.96%. Currently rent arrears stand at £1,524,934.30 (as at 28.07.2024). Arrears have, increased for a range of reasons including continuing pressures on peoples' finances most recently due to the cost of living crisis, but carried forward from the pandemic. Other reasons include court date delays, improving ICT system for collecting rents and arrears, and recruitment and retention of staff. In addition the ongoing impact of welfare reform, including natural migration of Housing Benefits to Universal Credit and the roll out of Universal Credit, alongside the way in which UC administer payments and engage with applicants and landlords is providing challenges.

70. Housing teams are now able to take enforcement action against non-payers more promptly directly in person and work on systems including letters and notices has been ongoing which is assisting with the collection of income. Agreements are now in place with a "holistic collection with care" approach.
71. All contacts are focused on providing advice, making affordable and sustainable repayment agreements, accessing benefits/grants and maximising income wherever possible as well as other appropriate support where needed. .
72. There is an annual verification exercise for Universal Credit Claims, which must be verified with DWP for year end. This work was completed by end of April 2024 which is an improved result for CYC.
73. The Housing Management Team have continued to work in partnership with other council departments and partners across the city to help people access the support and advice that they need. Housing are still working with the Breathing Space system which is increasing debt, however it is providing some relief from formal action for tenants where appropriate, usually due to issues such as mental ill health. These applications have again increased in frequency over the last 6 to 12 months due to cost of living and increased cost of utilities. There has also been an increase in Debt Relief Orders (DROs) which is at a cost to the council as these amounts must be written off. The team has worked closely with DWP to obtain Alternative Payment Arrangements to bring the UC payment direct to the rent account from DWP (rather than direct to the tenant), including payment of arrears
74. Officers have also assisted tenants with Discretionary Housing Payments, Financial Hardship Funding, YFAS applications, Food

and Fuel Vouchers, alternative housing (if they were either under occupying or over occupying) and need to move to assist with their financial situation. Repayment arrangements have been re-negotiated where they had become unaffordable/ unsustainable, and the use of Direct Debit to help people budget has been promoted. They have also made use of the DWP fund for people trying to get back into work which assists with expenditure such as travel to and from interviews and with suitable clothing for interviews.

75. A small hardship fund from the Housing Revenue Account was set up to assist people who live in council homes with basic rental payments due to pandemic related issues (help with rent arrears for CYC tenants only). This was renewed again last year and funding has been increased in this new financial year as the team is seeing larger arrears amounts now due to cost of living and vulnerabilities.
76. The Housing Management Team have been piloting new roles from within existing resources to better support people moving into council homes for the first time, and if people get into difficulties during their tenancy for whatever reason. The pilot was originally to last up to 18 months, however this has been extended to gain better knowledge on outcomes of the service as key performance measures such as income management and void turnaround, vulnerabilities, and tenancy sustainment amongst other measures, the output of which will be provide this autumn.
77. Through the York UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), the Housing and Economic Development services are supporting York Community Energy to provide outreach to households across the city. YCE provide energy support to York residents in person and by phone/email, as well as installing energy-saving measures and helping people apply for retrofit grants and financial assistance. To date, the project has reached 478 households, provided advice and support to 153 households, and enabled 64 households to improve their energy efficiency.

Digital Inclusion

78. The cost-of-living crisis has continued to highlight the importance of digital inclusion and the inequalities face by those without access to training, equipment and/or connectivity. Without IT equipment and/or internet access the following is now more difficult:
 - making new or managing benefits claims for vital support;

- accessing online discounts for essential household costs, fuel, insurance, phones, for example;
- connecting with family and friends;
- accessing education, training, and employment;
- accessing other help and support from organisations who have moved services online;
- children accessing schoolwork and other learning;
- accessing GP services

79. During 2024 the York 100% digital inclusion network reviewed the work undertaken and delivered so far. They have developed new Terms of Reference and a strategic plan focusing a vision under the banner of Digital Friendly York. These changes will enable the network to work together to target existing resources and secure additional funding and resources to deliver the shared goals for our City. The new Digital Friendly York terms of reference sets out three key objectives:

- To build a co-ordinated, connective, and collaborative approach to digital inclusion across York.
- To enable people of York to get information, advice, and guidance for the services they need via digital solutions, whilst acknowledging the place and need for non-digital solutions and to promote informed choice.
- To focus on digital inclusivity needs for the City of York, to identify areas of digital exclusion and to collectively work to provide possible solutions to support digital inclusivity.

80. The priorities are to reduce the barriers to accessing devices and equipment and get online. This includes laptops, phones, broadband and data; and building skills, knowledge, and confidence in their use.

81. An action plan is being developed to create a vision for a Digital Friendly York where all parts of York's community feel confident using and have access to essential everyday technologies. The partnership wants businesses, organisations and individuals to get involved, for their employees, customers, participants, friends and family. Working together to understand the importance technology plays in a good quality of life and ensure all York residents are able to benefit from the opportunities.

82. The network has been successful in securing funding to begin to develop and coordinate digital advice and support over the last three years. Resources secured include a part-time Digital Co-Ordinator hosted initially by York Explore and now York Learning, who has worked alongside partners to:

- gain access to communities and venues to promote awareness of digital offer around York, to find individuals/ groups in need of support and signpost them to that support and to provide practical resolutions eg provision of SIM cards with data on for free for those who are in need and do not have financial capacity of their own;
- establish Digital Café offers in multiple locations across York. These cafes are run by Keeping Digital Foundation volunteers and are completely free for any of the public to attend. They are spaces where people can access support with any digital technology;
- scoping out, designing and researching Coder DoJo offer which will be implemented in 2024/25 to allow young people to access coding skills whilst simultaneously promoting digital confidence/pathways to qualifications/availability of digital support to the parents who are attending with their young people. The first Dojos have been started in summer 2024 will result in over 100 people getting training and qualifications, building their confidence and opening opportunities to all.. This is funded through UKSPF funding;
- develop digital support pages on Live Well York so that information for both organisations and potential users is in one place. It also provides a collaborative approach to event planning and marketing; the intention is to add more value through this joint partnership approach.

83. CYC also supports the IT Reuse services run by York Community Furniture Store and which is part of the City's Digital Friendly York partnership. IT Reuse supports residents offering free refurbished IT equipment, mobile phones, wi-fi hubs and data sim cards and funding has been provided through FISG and HSF grants and funding.

Other activities funded by Financial Inclusion budgets.

84. This section of the report covers other activities funded by the council that have supported financial inclusion during 2023/24 as well as highlighting activity in place for the current year.
85. The Financial Inclusion Steering Group (FISG) is responsible for overseeing the delivery of financial inclusion work and has strategic oversight of the council's DHP, YFAS and CTS schemes. Membership continues to expand and now includes York Food Bank and Two Ridings Foundation joining the Welfare Benefits Unit, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York CVS, York Explore, Citizens Advice York, Community First Credit Union, and several CYC directorate representatives. There is a standing invitation to a representative of the Parish Councils. The Executive Members for Finance, Performance, Major Projects. and Equalities and the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education are standing members of the group. The group's purpose is:
- 'To ensure that local people have the knowledge of and access to appropriate services, allowing them to make more informed choices to achieve and maintain financial stability'.*

Financial Inclusion Strategy

86. The group has worked over the year to finalise the Interim Financial Inclusion Strategy 2023-25 building on partners' overall assessment of key challenges, ambitions and priorities. This was supplemented by work undertaken in October 2022 at the City's Cost of Living Summit.

Financial Inclusion Grants

87. A Financial Inclusion Fund of £150,000 was available for the 2023/24 year. The criteria for 2023/24 was that any bid should consider:
- *innovative one-year projects that deliver our financial inclusion objectives and make a real difference to people's lives particularly at a time when residents finances are under increasing pressure in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis'.*
 - *Helping to secure and support the financial well-being of our citizens should be at the heart of any projects that we fund.*
- And that successful bids will:*
- *have a focus on outcomes be specific, measurable and achievable in the period of the funding*

- *be delivered in the heart of our communities and complement the Council Plan.*

88. Grants overseen by the group awarded to local organisations to deliver projects that meet the group's objectives for 2023/24 amounted to £150,000 made up of £50,000 annual base budget, and additional one-off funding of £100k one off growth. The Financial Inclusion Steering Group (FISG) is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the Financial Inclusion Grants awarded.

Outcomes of projects funded in 2023/24

89. Eleven projects were funded during 2023/24 . All providers were able to maintain the delivery of high levels of support to residents by building on and further developing the alternative and flexible ways of working. The cost-of-living crisis added another challenging dimension to the sector with unprecedented increases in demand for their services. All partners responded swiftly and positively to these challenges by working collaboratively and innovatively to continue to support vulnerable residents in the city. The high-level summary of what the projects set out to deliver is set out at Annex D to this paper.
90. At least 1300 residents were directly helped by these projects. Specific outcomes include a recorded income gain from Age UK York and Citizens Advice York of £250k (annualised) income, data was not available from the other agencies. Demand across services has increased due to increased cost of living impacts particularly those having to claim UC for the first time. Those needing help with making Personal Independence Payments claims, struggling with debt and financial hardship and housing issues all featured strongly in the type of support needed along with energy and food affordability concerns. Some projects directly engaged in supporting the refugee community particularly those from Ukraine.
91. In addition, as a direct result of some of the project interventions 13 people found employment and 153 took up volunteering, training or learning opportunities. Many others benefitted from broad access to support and advice helping build confidence and resilience. The nature and extent of the support provided to individual participants varies from project to project (for example, some require a high intensity prolonged one to one package of help whilst others are of a more limited transactional nature) and is reflected in the outcomes reported. Straight comparisons between projects are not always appropriate or possible.

Funding of projects for 2024/25

92. The Financial Inclusion Fund annual budget of £50,000 was available for 2024/25 grants. Organisations in the City were invited to bid for funding from April 2024 for innovative one-year projects that deliver the city's financial inclusion objectives and will make a real difference to people's lives particularly at a time when residents' finances are under increasing pressure in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis.
93. The fund received 18 applications seeking total funding of £186,928, far exceeding the £50k available. This continues to reflect the very exceptional pressure on both residents and those organisations that provide critical support. The applications were from a range of organisations across the city and a mix of organisations who have received funding in the past and others. Eight of the bids sought to build on projects already funded by this funding stream in 2023/24.
94. Seven bids were successful in the 2024/25 process. All seven of those were awarded provided partial matched funding towards the overall cost of the work to be carried out. The total value awarded matched the £50,000 budget available and all funding awarded is for twelve months. Table 11 below summarises the projects funded:

Table 11. Financial Inclusion projects funded for 2024/25

Organisation	Project Title	Award
Age UK	Supporting vulnerable people at home	£6,000
CAY / Travellers Trust	Financial Inclusion for the Traveller Community	£5,500
Community Furniture Store	IT Reuse	£6,500
OCA Y	Benefits Advocacy: help with applications, assessments and appeals	£7,693
Peasholme Charity	My Money My life	£12,000
RAY	Financial Inclusion for Refugees and Asylum Seekers	£7,000
Welfare Benefits Unit	AdviceExtra: Enhanced Support for Complex Cases	£5,150

Total	£49,843
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Consultation Analysis

95. This paper sets out the breadth of support delivered to residents in the city across 2023/24 and progress to date in 2024/25. The report sets out the extent of partnership working with our community partners which is now greater than ever. Any initiative has its own decision paper, EIA and sets out the extent of consultation. The purpose of this paper is to summarise all of this work to inform the relevant Executive member and does not require consultation other than the comments of the Implication Officers.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

96. Executive Members are asked to note 7a and 7b and therefore no further options are offered for consideration.
97. In relation to recommendation 7c the alternative to the officer delegation stated is for the lead Executive Member(s) to approve any changes to respond to any extended or new Household Support Fund requirements in a future Executive Member Decision Session. The risk this carries is that there could be a break in support for those residents on low incomes in the city at the start of the winter period when help is needed most.

Organisational Impact and Implications

98. The comments of the implications officers are set out below:
- (a) **Financial** – The direct financial implications to CYC relate to the funding of both FISG bids and the YFAS scheme which are funded within approved budget allocations/reserves.
 - (b) **Human Resources (HR)** - Any changes to roles within the Housing Management Team, as a result of the pilot referred to in paragraph 76 above, will be managed in accordance with the council's workforce change policies. There are no other HR implications contained within this report.

- (c) **Equalities and Human rights** – There are no direct implications of this report as the report is for noting, however the work undertaken by the council and partners will have impacted positively on all residents accessing the support and those with intersectional and multi complex needs are likely to have been most affected by the impacts of the pandemic and Cost of Living Crisis.
- (d) **Legal** – Any grants awarded by the Council through the various schemes set out in this report are done so in accordance with an agreed governance process via the Financial Inclusion Steering Group and are subject to appropriate arrangements being put in place to cover the terms of the grant.
- (e) **Health and Wellbeing** - The report describes the outcomes of a range of initiatives that were designed to increase income and reduce debt for York’s financially excluded residents. The report rightly highlights that these activities directly contribute to the aims and commitments of the council plan, including improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.
- (f) **Procurement** - There are no implications
- (g) **Environment and Climate action** – No climate change implications have been identified
- (h) **Data Protection and Privacy**- The data protection impact assessment (DPIAs) screening questions were completed for the recommendations and options in this report and as there is no personal, special categories or criminal offence data being processed to set these out, there is no requirement to complete a DPIA at this time. However, this will be reviewed following the approved recommendations and options from this report and a DPIA completed if required.
- (i) **Communications**, ‘This is a vital service to city residents and is one that communications readily support through existing campaigns. We will continue this provision, as well as looking to how we can enhance this service to customers through various media channels. As part of our ongoing communications plan, we will also employ robust risk management for any areas that may need this.’
- (j) **Economy** - The programmes and projects described in this report make a positive impact on the York economy.

Risks and Mitigations

99. The key risks are in relation to YFAS, DHP, and other available hardship funds to support residents through what is a protracted cost of living crisis and include:
- Forward planning of ongoing support through future budget processes as well as maximising government support will be key as the expected impacts will exist into the long term.
 - Managing the budget to ensure that customers get the same service and support irrespective of when they apply in the financial year.
 - The cost-of-living crisis has impacted on the funding of the council and of partners in the voluntary and charity sector, so service resilience across all partners needs to be a key consideration for decision makers in the short and medium term to protect ongoing service delivery.
 - Any failure to provide an appropriate service will have a negative impact on the wellbeing of vulnerable people.
100. These risks are managed through constant monitoring and review. The actual figures for UC, YFAS, DHP, Government support schemes and rent arrears are reported to each FISG meeting to allow early intervention.

Wards Impacted

101. Residents from all wards have benefitted from the welfare support in this report, and two recommendations are to note the contents and then accept a minor decision around any future HSF scheme to allow associated actions to be made quickly when the extended HSF5 scheme details are received.

Contact details

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Background papers

Decision Session of the Executive member for Finance & Major Projects-
13 March 2023 - Financial Inclusion Interim Strategy 2023-25

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=875&Mid=13518&Ver=4>

Decision to limit support paid through York financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS) - 3rd July 2024:

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7156>

Decision to increase value of food and fuel vouchers – 12th July 2024

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6887>

Decision Session of the Executive member for Finance & Major Projects
Recommendations for approval of grants from the Financial Inclusion
Fund 2023/24 – 13 March 2023:

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=875&Mid=13518>

Decision to approve the financial inclusion awards for 2024/25 – 2 April
2024

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7103>

Annexes

Annex A Poverty gap statistics

Annex B Discretionary Financial Support Summary Report May 2024

Annex C Food & Fuel Voucher Scheme Report 2023/24

Annex D Financial Inclusion projects funded for 2023/24

List of Abbreviations

CAY	Citizen's Advice York
CFS	Community Furniture Store
CTS	Council Tax Support
CVS	Council for Voluntary Services
CYC	City of York Council
DD	Direct Debits
DI	Digital Inclusion
DHP	Discretionary Housing Payment
DRO	Debt Relief Order
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions

FISG	Financial Inclusion Steering Group
HAF	Holiday Activities and food
HB	Housing Benefit
HSF	Household Support Fund
IT	Information Technology
k	Thousand
LAC	Local Area Co
LIFT	Low Income Family Tracker
LWY	Live Well York
MCN	Multiple Complex Needs
PiP	Policy in Practice
UC	Universal Credit
UKSPF	UK Shared Prosperity Fund
YFAS	York Financial Assistance Scheme

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Annex A Poverty gap statistics

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL: APRIL 2024 – MAY 2024

Based on cohort of 8,567 households receiving council tax support and housing benefit

Summary

- In May 2024, there were 2,992 households that were in relative poverty, with 1,909 children captured in LIFT. The poverty line used in these calculations is defined as 60% of median household income, which has been sourced from the ONS website, which is currently £1,615 (annual median income of £32,300 divided by 12 to give a monthly figure, multiplied by 60%). Across all these households there is £340,473 of Council Tax arrears, Rent arrears, and Housing Benefit Overpayments.
- Table 1 shows that the percentage of households in relative poverty has slightly increased from 34.1% to 34.1% in April 2024 to 34.9% in May 2024. The total poverty line shortfall in September 2022 is £1,389,311. This means that it would take £1.3m to bring 2,992 households out of relative poverty.
- Table 2 shows that since April 2024, majority of households in relative poverty had a monthly income £101 to £400 below the poverty line. The share of households with monthly income of £101-£400pm below the poverty line has decreased by roughly 5% from April to May. Over the same period, the share of those with monthly income of >£700 less than the poverty line increased by about 6%.
- Table 3 shows the mean equivalised poverty line is £1746 in September 2022, which is roughly the same as that in April 2024. The equivalised poverty line is higher than the non-equivalised two person household poverty line because the sample captured in this report has a relatively large share of families with children.

Table 1: Summary statistics

Month	Percentage of households in relative poverty	Median poverty line shortfall	Mean poverty line shortfall	Number of households in relative poverty	Total poverty line shortfall
Apr 2024	34.1%	£325	£398	2,924	£1,164,567
May 2024	34.9%	£371	£464	2,992	£1,389,311

Table 2: Proportion of households by size of poverty line shortfall

Month	Income £100/month below poverty line	Income £101-£400/month below poverty line	Income £401-£700/month below poverty line	Income >£700/month below poverty line
Apr 2024	17.5%	42.3%	23.7%	16.4%
May 2024	16.2%	37.1%	24.5%	22.2%

Table 3: Poverty gap index

Month	Mean equivalised poverty line	Mean household income	Mean shortfall	Poverty gap index
Apr 2024	£1,773	£1,375	£398	22.5%
May 2024	£1,746	£1,282	£464	26.6%

Methodology

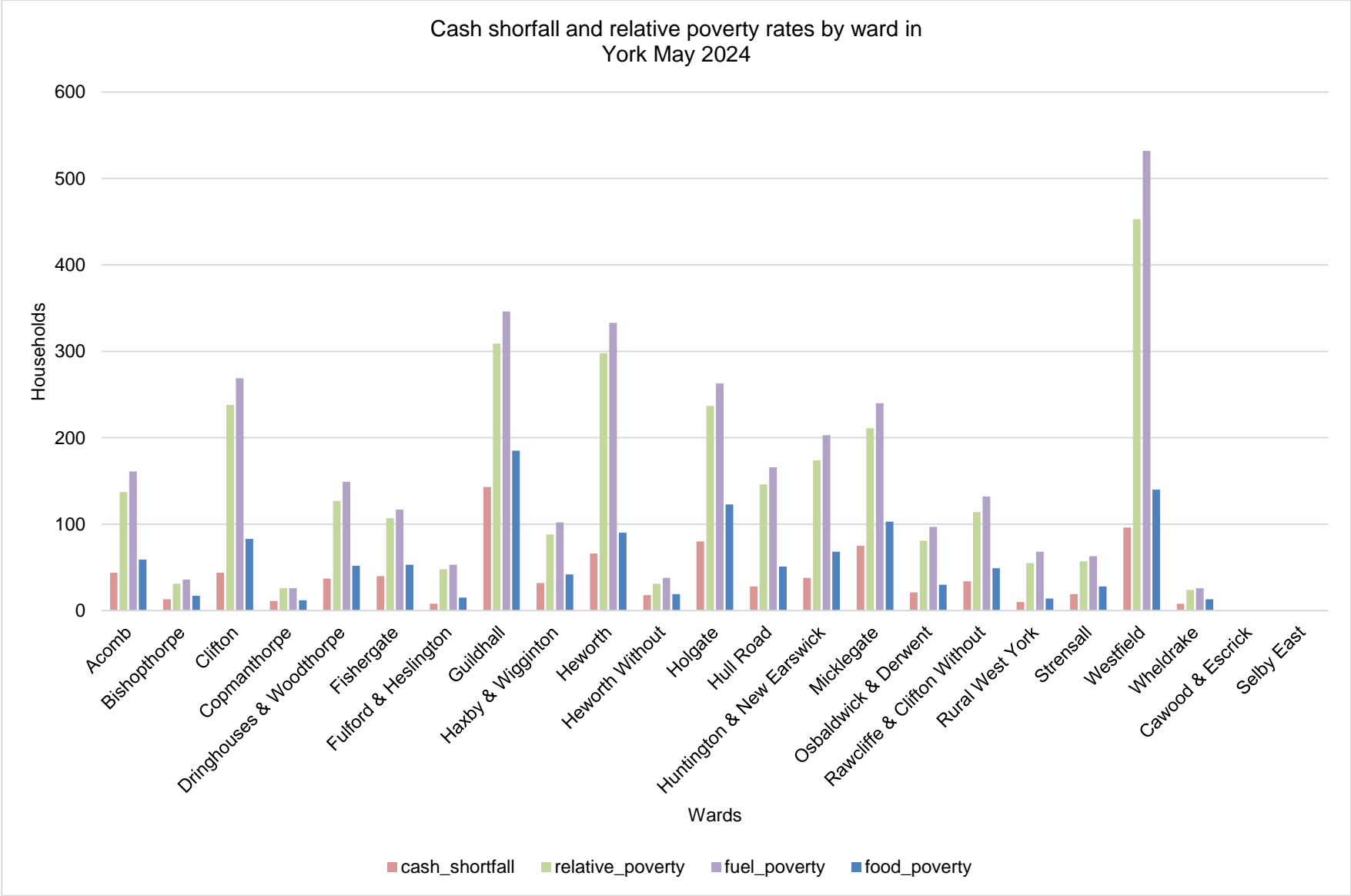
- Summary statistics shown in the tables (e.g. median and mean shortfalls and household incomes) are calculated using households who are in relative poverty as shown in the LIFT platform, which uses an equivalised poverty line (i.e. adjusted for household composition).

- The poverty line used in these calculations is defined as 60% of median household income, which has been sourced from the ONS website, which is currently £1,615 (annual median income of £32,300 divided by 12 to give a monthly figure, multiplied by 60%).
- To reflect wage inflation since the ONS published their median income estimate in the 23/24 financial year, we have adjusted the £1,615 in line with the OBR's most recent Economic and Financial Outlook (Table 1.1). For FY23/24, the latest estimate is 4.1%, increasing the poverty line to £1,681. For FY24/25, the latest estimate is 1.7%, increasing it to £1,710.
- This report covers FY23/24 and calculations are adjusted to household size.
- The equivalised poverty line uses weightings of one third for additional adults and children over fourteen, and one fifth for children under fourteen.
- For example, if there is one child under fourteen in a household with two adults, then the poverty line will be increased by a factor of 1.2. If a household is made up of three adults, it would be increased by a factor of 1.33.
- Both Tables 1 and 2 are calculated using the same equivalised poverty lines as shown on the LIFT platform.
- Table 1 contains summaries of households in relative poverty as identified in the LIFT platform by month, showing summary statistics including the count and proportion of households in relative poverty, the mean and median shortfalls versus the equivalised poverty line, and the total poverty line shortfall (the mean multiplied by the count).
- Table 2 categorises these household by the size of their shortfall relative to the equivalised poverty line.
- The poverty gap index shown in Table 3 is the ratio between the mean income shortfall and the mean equivalised relative poverty line for each month.
- It is based on the poverty gap measure as defined by the OECD: "The poverty gap is the ratio by which the mean income of the poor falls below the poverty line."
- The calculation involves taking the difference between the mean average equivalised poverty line for that month and the mean household income

for households in relative poverty (the ‘Mean shortfall’), and dividing this by the mean equivalised poverty line for that month:

$$\text{Poverty gap index} = \frac{\text{Mean poverty line} - \text{Mean household income}}{\text{Mean poverty line}}$$

- The table shows the components of this calculation: the mean household income is subtracted from the poverty line to give the mean shortfall. The poverty gap index is then calculated by dividing the mean shortfall by the poverty line.
- The poverty gap index provides a measure of the depth of poverty that can be interpreted independently of the number of households in the data set. A higher value indicates greater depth of poverty than a low value.
- Note that the mean equivalised poverty line is higher than the non-equivalised two person household poverty line – this is because households with more than two people are more prevalent in the data, meaning that the average equivalised poverty line is higher than the unadjusted amount.

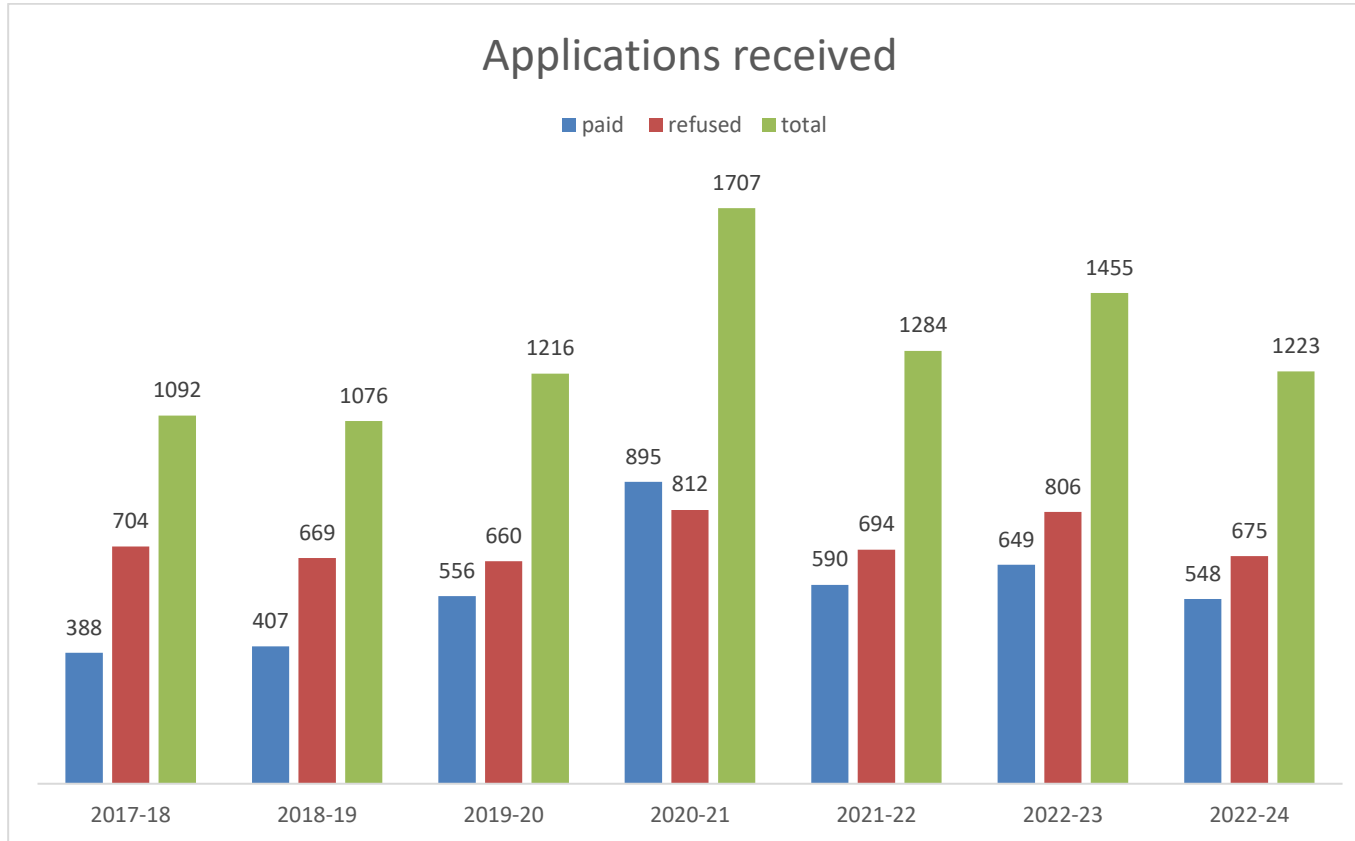


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Annex B Discretionary Financial Support Summary Report May 2024

York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS)

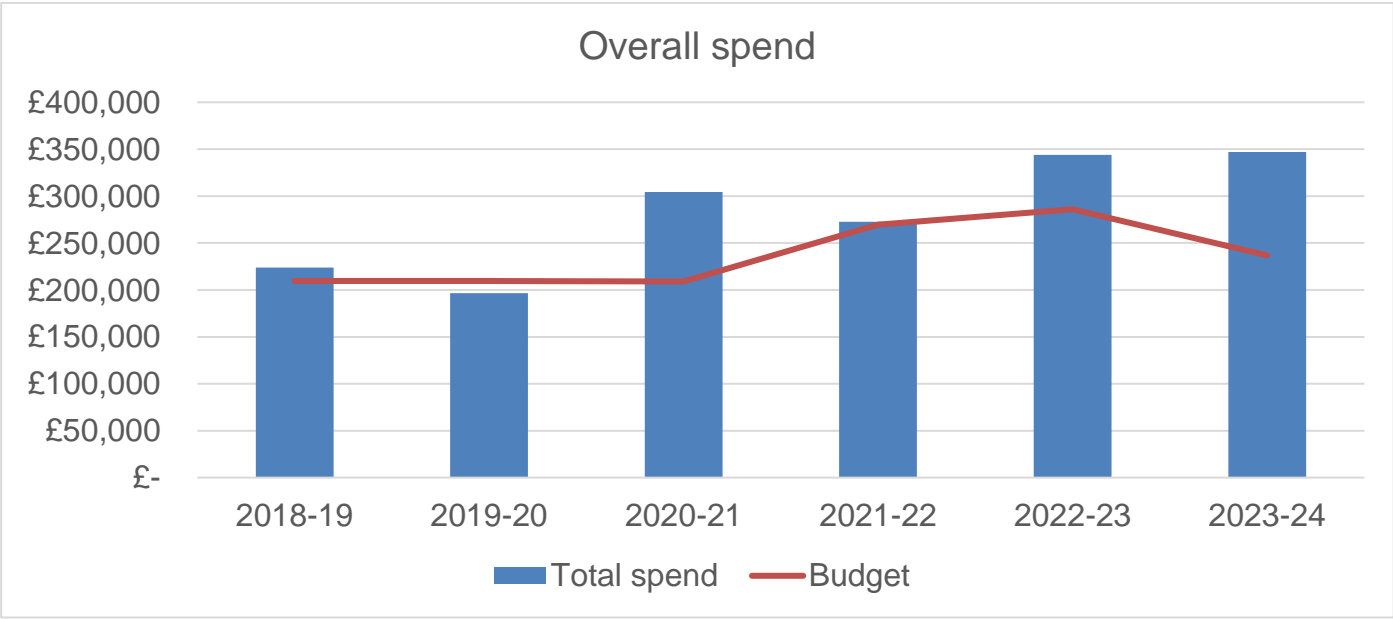
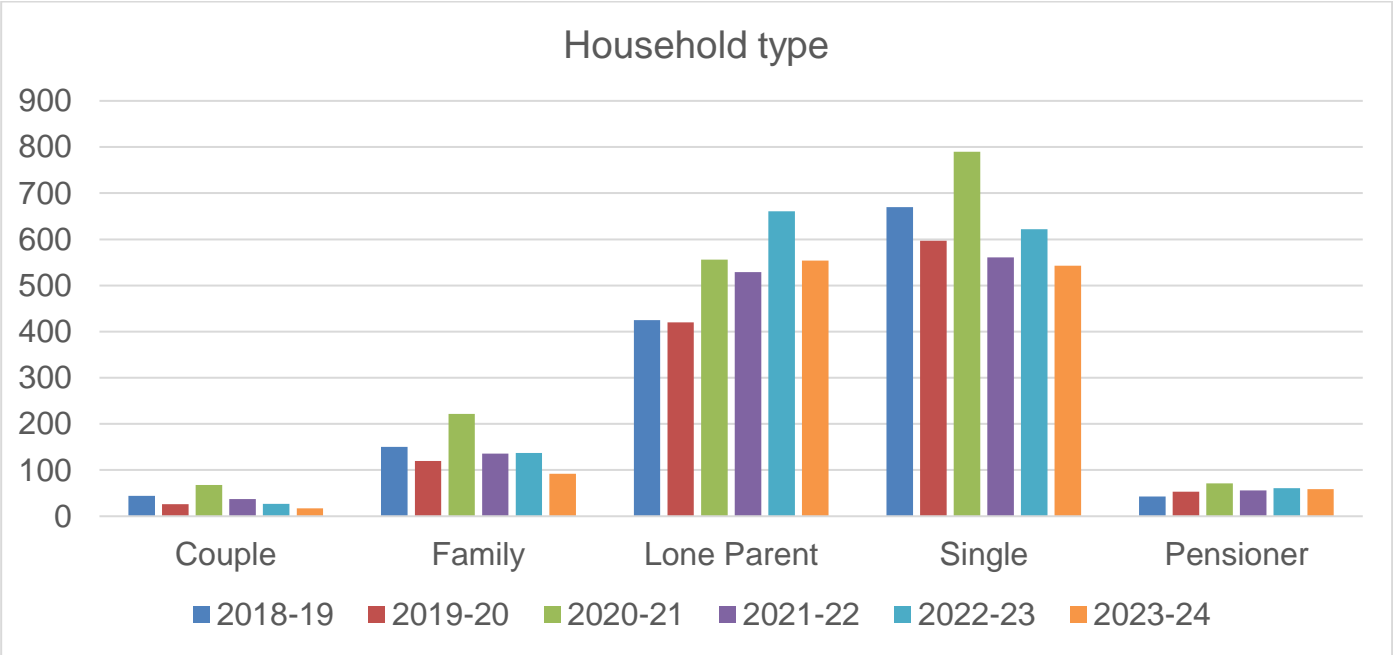
Total number of applications processed during financial year.



Requests for decisions to be reviewed

2023-24	26 reviews.	18 Decision upheld	8 Decision overturned. *
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*7 applicants provided additional information to support application



Main reasons given for application

% Applications	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Benefit delay/Universal Credit	18.6	8.6	0.9	24.6	0.5	0.5
Debt	3.3	2.8	1.5	1	1.1	0.9
Disaster	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.2
Emergency	11.7	9.4	11	13.3	9.3	11.2
Error					0.2	0.2
Exceptional pressures	19.2	18.9	29.9	23.2	23.1	25.4
Expenses	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.9
Flood	7.3	10	16.9	8.9	0.1	0.0
Fuel	5.5	7.6	15.6	13.4	9.8	8.3
No food				0.2	18.4	16.2
Other				0.4	0.1	0.0
Prison	2.9	3.8	1.8	2.6	0.1	0.5
Repair	9.7	8.1	7.8	10.4	4.4	3.7
Resettlement - homeless	7.1	8.4	3.9	6	11.3	14.5
Resettlement - other	10	4	6	8.2	6.0	5.4
Stay in the community	0	14	3.9		10.3	6.9
Travel					0.3	0.3
Vouchers					4.7	5.1
Unknown	3.9	4.6	9.5	9.4	0	0.0

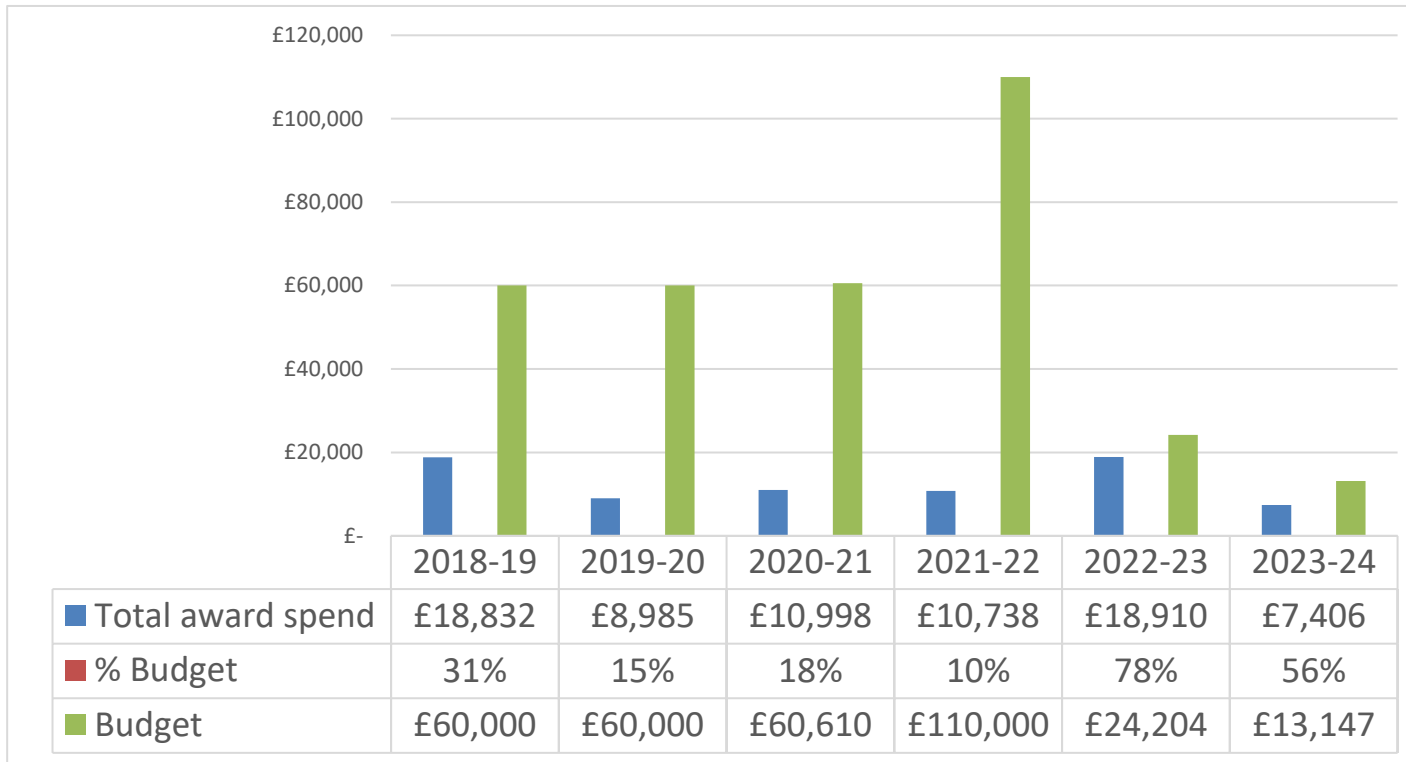
Grant amounts awarded

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Average award	£396	£352	£455	£172	£447	£499	£635
Lowest award	£20	£23	£20	£10	£15	£20	£23
Highest award	£193	£1,961	£1,961	£2,324	£2,522	£2419	£2310

Items awarded

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 Awarded	2023-24 Refused
Bed	43	45	31	66	40	72	58	12
Bedding	2	7	0	0	6	0	0	
Clothing	98	4	3	17	1	18	15	11
Cooker	63	36	55	91	19	85	90	4
Curtains	30	10	18	21	6	13	8	12
Floor cover	48	36	36	37	33	0	34	16
Fridge	37	30	51	69	29	46	49	6
Large fridge	20	0	0	0	7	3	3	
Fuel	189	67	100	46	33	55	59	9
Kitchen pk1	50	79	55	73	79	45	73	5
Kitchen pk3	2	4	5	3	3	14	10	6
Microwave	10	2	0	1	4	0	1	12
Removal	4	2	8	2	0	0	4	0
Repair	7	2	1	2	0	5	0	2
Resettlement packages	69	126	162	145	109	111	101	15
Sofa /chair	9	9	15	26	9	4	19	2
Supermarket vouchers	337	134	244	451	122	175	195	21
Table/ chair	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Travel cost	26	0	7	13	0	0	7	0
Wardrobe	9	8	21	25	8	3	16	1
Washer	38	37	39	55	29	37	54	4
Grand total	1092	638	851	1143	537	686	912	138

Discretionary Council Tax Reduction



Discretionary Housing Payment

The council received £163.9k in government funding for DHPs for 2023/24 in order to help with housing costs and has additional CYC budget of £27k in reserve.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total DHP Fund available	£237,097	£324,923	£231,377	£163,991	£163,991
Amount spent	£211,835	£298,252	£231,377	£175,195*	£163,991
Amount remaining	£25,262	£26,671	£0	£0	£0
Number of DHPs awarded	213	295	222	196	195

Annex C**City of York Council Food & Fuel Voucher Scheme Report 2023/24****Food vouchers**

CYC Food Vouchers are available for use at ASDA, Tesco, Morrisons, Aldi, Farmfoods, Iceland or Sainsburys (From April 23). Food vouchers awards are allocated at standard award amounts of

- Before July 2023 were
 - 1 x £30 for a single person household
 - 1 x £60 for a household of two to five people
 - 1 x £100 for a household of six people or more
- From 17 July 2023
 - 1 x £60 for a single person household
 - 1 x £100 for a household of two to five people
 - 1 x £150 for a household of six people or more

Organisations administering award

Organisation	No of vouchers issued	
	2022/23	2023/24
City of York Council*	1354	1240
Citizens Advice York	416	822
Peasholme Charity	145	99
Community Links	100	107
CAP	14	41
Age UK	2	1
York Community Energy	2	4
IDAS		26
Total	2033	2340

*Local Area Coordinators, Benefits & Contributions Advisors, Housing Management Officers.

Household size

	No of awards		Cost including admin fee
	2022/23	2023/24	
Single person	650	115	£15,199
1 – 5-person household	1256	1424	£130,917
6+ person household	159	801	£45,983
Grand Total		3240	£192,099

Households who have any earned income

%	2022/23	2023/24
No	73	70
Yes	27	30

The primary area of advice the resident contacted the service

Benefits	Debt	Energy	Food	Housing	Other
3%	4%	17%	4%	60%	12%

Fuel vouchers

Fuel vouchers awards are allocated at standard award amounts of

- Before July 2023 were
 - 1 x £28 for a single person household
 - 1 x £49 for a two or more-person household
- From 17 July 2023
 - £56 for a single person household
 - £98 for a two or more-person household

Organisations administering award

Organisation	No of vouchers issued	
	2022/23	2023/24
City of York Council*	1126	925
Citizens Advice York	398	452
Peasholme Charity	241	68
Community Links	55	25
CAP	25	17
Age UK	7	0
York Community Energy	94	71
York Foodbank	6	0
OCA Y	1	0
IDAS		29
Total	1953	1587

*Local Area Coordinators, Benefits & Contributions Advisor, Housing Management Officers

Household Size

	Cost including admin fee	Credit customers	Pre-payment	Total No. of awards
Single person household				
2022/23	£19,513	137	469	606
2023/24	£25,857	166	299	465
Multiple person household				
2022/23	£71,660	417	931	1348
2023/24	£98,207	535	589	1123

Households who have any earned income

%	2023/24
No	73
Yes	27

The primary area of advice the resident contacted the service

Benefits	Debt	Energy	Food	Housing	Other
5%	16%	61%	8%	8%	2%

Reason for seeking advice and support %

	2022/23	2023/24
Is affected by mental ill-health	19.5	13.8%
Who are elderly, frail, or confused older people	2.2	0.5%
Who are seriously ill or have a severe long term health condition	8.4	7.3%
Who has a physical or sensory impairment or learning disability	5.0	3.3%
Who has difficulty in understanding, speaking or reading English	0.2	0.3%
Who is a care leaver	0.2	0.1%
Who is fleeing domestic abuse	0.9	0.6%
Who is pregnant or has recently given birth	2.4	2.3%
Who is recently bereaved	0.7	0.3%
Who is suffering severe hardship	60.5	77.2%

Annex D Financial Inclusion projects funded for 2023/24

GRANT/TITLE	DURATION	AIMS	OUTCOMES
<i>AgeUK (York): Providing Benefits Advice through Home Visits</i>			
£11,644	1 year: April 2023 – March 2024	Extension of their specialist Money and Benefits advice service offered to people over pension age, providing an additional two days per week of support in response to increased demand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 referred for a visit. • 47 helped to make a claim. • £205,859 additional annualised income gain. <p>Some capacity issues with a postholder resigning and challenge finding replacement. 2 trainees were recruited undertaking a level 3 Award in Advice through the Open University. This increased AUKY's capacity to for home visits, and ability to respond to demand</p>
<i>Experience Counts: 50 plus project</i>			
£9,800	1 year: April 2023 – March 2024	Deliver 2 skills and training programmes for over 50s each consisting of 6 half day weekly workshops with wrap around support.	Publicised through informal partnership network (26+ agencies), attending Job Fairs etc generating referrals from multiple sources.

		<p>-11 Oct to 5 Nov 2023 (Tang Hall) -7 Nov to 12 Dec2023 (Quaker meeting House)</p> <p>Many participants are vulnerable and first goal is to build confidence. 1-2-1 input from trainers prior to the programmes commencing. Typical sessions include positivity and confidence building exercises, problem solving, writing CVs and personal profiles, assertiveness support, mock interviews, skills assessment. Provide follow up support at 8/12/16 weeks with an initial follow up within a month of the programme completing. Support continues as long as necessary.</p>	<p>Seeing increase of employees who are affected by in work poverty contact through word of mouth/social prescribers as they seek improved employment to manage their increased cost of living.</p> <p>Supported 17 people (85 hours so far) on long term basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16 people attended. ○ 10 found employment. ○ 1 became self-employed.
Coterminous CIC: Employment & Enterprise Programme			
£15,840	1 year: April 2023 – March 2024	Provide practical support and employment advice to help people navigate their way back into meaningful employment through focussed training and workshops. Aimed at York’s most marginalised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 13 people engaged in the project. ● 3 found employment. ● 2 found training or volunteering. ● 2 taken up tailored 1-2-1 support.

		residents many of whom are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 employers engaged with project.
Refugee Action York (RAY): Advice & Support, equal access for all			
£14,271	1 year: April 2023 – March 2024	In collaboration with CAY continue and build on the existing project to support refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to access practical support, information and guidance, to relieve hardship, reduce isolation, advance education and improve integration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 people referred to meet essential needs. • 13 CV support and applied for a job. • 40 referred to other services. • 72 regularly attend workshops. • 30 people attended coffee mornings.
York Community Energy: Supporting parents struggling with energy bills			
£16,221	1 year: April 2023 – extended to June 24	The project aims to increase the financial resilience of single parents/ families with children who are struggling with their energy and other bills, ensuring they get support with managing bills and keeping warm while saving energy where possible.	Project hindered by collapse of key partner. Project was paused for a period, before being restarted and will run into June 24 on the agreed funding. 168 eligible parents reached

		Includes outreach activities and practical support on energy and other issues.	54 eligible parents receiving direct support 32 other agency staff attended sessions. - Data from March 24
Peasholme Charity: My Money, My Life			
£25,764	1 year: April 2023 – March 2024	<p>For the continued delivery of Peasholme Charity’s financial capability service, including activities to move individuals from a point of crisis through a stabilisation period towards a longer change period.</p> <p>The ‘Financial Capability pathway’ will include a range of service options, including:</p> <p>Drop-in support within a variety of community venues; Benefits Advice, Crisis interventions, referral, and support to access existing community resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 133 engaged with the service. • 90 drop in sessions delivered. • 133 people used drop in service. • 64 people engaged in supported learning activities. <p>Managing welfare benefits – 18 Managing utilities – 18 Control cost of living - 16 Crisis work – 12 Accessing and positively engaging with specialist services – 5</p>

Citizens Advice York: Financial Inclusion in the Traveller Community			
£10,837	1 year: April 2023 – March 2024	Continue to deliver advice to clients from the Gypsy & Traveller community and develop co-ordinated advice services with York Travellers Trust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 individual residents received benefits advice. • 22 individual residents received debt advice. • £42,738 income gains (50 residents)
OCA Y: Benefits Advocacy			
£6,938	1 year: April 2023 – March 2024	Deliver comprehensive advocacy support to clients (aged 50+) caught in the benefits system to ensure they maximise their entitlement. Provides emotional/practical support to manage the challenges many face in making claims.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 247 residents assisted. <p>85% felt that OCA Y's support had positively impacted their well-being over the past 6 months.</p>
IT Reuse (Community Furniture Store)			
£20,000	1 year: April 2023 – March 2024	Provide those on low incomes with a refurbished computer to alleviate digital poverty helping to reduce financial exclusion to enable people to manage their finances, apply for benefits, learn new skills, apply for jobs, access banking and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 182 SIM cards supplied. • 294 devices supplied to residents. • 14 IT work experience • 294 devices donated.

		find better on-line deals. Donated unwanted IT equipment is repaired and configured by volunteers to distribute to those who experience financial and digital exclusion.	
York Explore: 100% Digital York Partnership			
£4,100	3 months 1/1/24 – 31/3/24	The project focuses on supporting digital inclusion across the city working with over 15 partners. This funding extends the post of Digital Inclusion Co-ordinator (18.5 hours p/wk) for an extra 3 months from 1/1/24 to 31/3/24.	<p>Programme of 6 Digital Cafes on monthly basis across York.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3+ volunteers coordinated by Luke Castle working with the Digital Co-ordinator – estimated 175 people attended <p>Monthly 1-2-1 sessions at Explore venues doing in person digital support x 12 months – estimated 140 people attended</p> <p>450 SIM Cards issued via trusted third-party referrals individuals who do not have means to purchase them themselves and so were digitally disenfranchised.</p>

Welfare Benefits Unit: Advice Extra

<p>£14,585</p>	<p>1 year: April 2023 – March 2024</p>	<p>Continuation of the Advice Extra project, building on innovative practice developed over the last few years helping to underpin first tier advisors in responding to more complex cases.</p> <p>Proactive follow-up of UC benefit queries and complex queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting advisers • Ensuring accuracy of DWP decision-making • Identifying issues, developing good practice, shaping future advice. • In-depth support, including: • Detailed support challenging decisions • Comparative analysis of benefit options • Raising concerns with DWP and other national agencies <p>Targeted support direct with clients</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 111 clients had proactive follow up. • 13 had in-depth follow up. • 2 x UC briefings attended by 16 advise workers
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Meeting:	Decision Session – Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects and Equalities
Meeting date:	19/09/2024
Report of:	Director of Finance
Portfolio of:	Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects and Equalities

Decision Report: Application for Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act 2011

Subject of Report

1. This report details applications to renew the listing of the following properties as Assets of Community Value (ACV) for consideration by the Council.
 - a) The Golden Ball Public House, 2 Cromwell Road York. An application has been received from the Friends of The Golden Ball.
 - b) The Blue Bell Public House, 53 Fossgate, York. An application has been received from the 'Regulars at the Blue Bell'.
 - c) Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road, Strensall Camp. An application has been received from Strensall Parish Council.

2. The applications have been received, for a decision by the Executive Member in the Council's statutory capacity as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing authority.

Benefits and Challenges

3. This process is a statutory requirement. The process and the effects through the listing of an asset is set out in detail in this paper.

Policy Basis for Decision

4. The process is a statutory requirement.

Financial Strategy Implications

5. There are no financial strategy implications to this decision.

Recommendation and Reasons

6. The Executive Member is asked to consider the officer recommendations to:

Approve the renewal of the listing of:

- (i) The Golden Ball, 2 Cromwell Road, York;
- (ii) The Blue Bell Public House, 53 Fossgate, York; and
- (iii) Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road, Strensall Camp, York.

as Assets of Community Value (ACV) for the reasons outlined within this report.

Reason: To ensure the Council meets its legislative obligations (pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012) and promotes community access to community facilities.

Background

7. The Golden Ball was previously entered on the Council's list of ACV property on 15th July 2019 following an earlier ACV nomination received on 16th May 2019. Pursuant to Section 87(3)

of the Localism Act 2011 land/property must be removed from the ACV list after 5 years from date of listing. This application is a request to re-add "The Golden Ball" onto the Council's AVC list (for a further period of 5 years).

8. The Blue Bell was previously entered on the Council's list of ACV property on 17th October 2017 following an earlier ACV nomination received on 10th August 2017. Pursuant to Section 87(3) of the Localism Act 2011 land/property must be removed from the ACV list after 5 years from date of listing. This application is a request to re-add "The Blue Bell" onto the Council's AVC list (for a further period of 5 years).
9. Hurst Hall Community Centre, Strensall Camp was previously entered on the Council's list of ACV property on 15th July 2019 following an earlier ACV nomination received on 4th February 2019. Pursuant to Section 87(3) of the Localism Act 2011 land/property must be removed from the ACV list after 5 years from date of listing. This application is a request to re-add the Hurst Hall Community Centre onto the Council's AVC list (for a further period of 5 years).
10. The purpose behind these provisions is to ensure that property (land and building) assets which are currently used for principal/non-ancillary use(s) which benefit the local communities are not disposed of without the local community being given an opportunity to bid for these assets when the owner wishes to dispose of the asset. This right is not simply to accommodate 'public assets' but also private assets, the test is whether such assets are viewed as 'assets of community value'. These assets therefore could be currently owned by the public, private or voluntary sector.
11. The definition of 'land of community value' is set out in section 88 of the Localism Act 2011. To be considered as an asset of community value the land or property must satisfy either of the following criteria:
 - a. 88(1) an actual current non-ancillary use of the building or other land furthers the well-being or social interests of the community and whether it is realistic to think that there can continue to be non-ancillary use of the building or other land which will further (whether or not in the same way) the social well-being or social interests of the local community.

OR

- b. 88(2) there is a time in the recent past when an actual non-ancillary use of the building or other land furthered the social well-being or social interests of the local community and it is realistic to think that there is a time within the next 5 years when there could be non-ancillary use (whether or not the same use as before) that would further the social well-being or social interests of the local community.
12. There is no exhaustive list of what is considered to be an asset of community value, but cultural, recreational and sporting interests are included. Excluded specifically are residential type properties (such as hotels, housing in multiple occupation and residential caravan sites) and operational land of statutory undertakers.

The Process

13. The regulations set out how potential assets can be listed which in brief are as follows:
 - **Nomination** – this can be by a voluntary or community body with a local connection. This includes parish councils, neighbourhood forums, charities, community interest groups but excludes public or local authorities (except parish councils).
 - **Consideration** – the local authority has 8 weeks to make the decision. Under the Council's procedures the Executive Member is the decision maker. If the nomination is successful, the asset details are entered onto the 'Community Value list' – see further details in the report – and also the local land charges register. If unsuccessful, then the details are entered onto an 'unsuccessful nominations' list for a period of 5 years to prevent repeat nominations. The owner can request a review of the decision which must be completed within 8 weeks and the owner can further appeal within 28 days of the review outcome to a Tribunal. Neither the Localism Act nor the ACV Regulations give the nominating organisation any right to appeal a decision of the local authority that the nominated property is not an asset of community value/does not satisfy the necessary S.88 criteria referred to above.
 - **Disposal of assets on the list** – if a building or piece of land which is on the list is going to be disposed of (by way of either a freehold sale or granting of a lease for a Term of 25 years or more) with vacant possession, then the owner of the asset

needs to give notice to the local authority. There is then a 6 week moratorium period for any community group to express interest in writing. If they do, then a 6 month period (commencing from the date on which the Council had received notice of the owner's intention to dispose of the asset) is provided for that group to prepare its bid. After that period the owner can market the property and any bid from the community group will be considered with bids from other interested parties. There is no guarantee that the offer from the community group will be successful as the owner of the asset will dispose of the property in accordance with its own criteria for disposal. There are a number of exceptions contained within the legislation that mean that this moratorium period does not apply and the owner does not need to give notice of its intention to sell. This includes when there is a legally enforceable requirement, which pre-dates the listing, to sell to a specific party.

- **Compensation** – the presence of the land or building asset on the community value list may result in additional expenditure or a loss to the owner and therefore the owner can apply for compensation from the local authority. The figure is limited to costs or losses incurred only whilst the asset is on the list and could include such items as legal expenses for appeals, costs relating to the delay in the sale (such as maintenance, security, utility costs, loss of value).

The Community Ownership Fund

14. The Community Ownership Fund is a £150 million fund over 4 years to support community groups across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to take ownership of assets which are at risk of being lost to the community. The Fund is administered by the Government. Whilst there is no guarantee of success, this Fund is a potential source of financial assistance for community groups which could assist them in raising the necessary funding to buy the asset, in the event that it became available.

The Golden Ball Public House, 2 Cromwell Road, York.

15. The freehold of The Golden Ball is owned by Unique Pub Properties Ltd. The nomination is being made by the Friends of the Golden Ball. Legal Services have confirmed that a nomination must be considered by the Council if the nominator is someone who meets the eligibility criteria specified in the relevant legislation

and if the nomination form includes the information specified in regulation 6 of the ACV Regulations 2012. The Friends of the Golden Ball are considered as an eligible body. In accordance with the regulations, the freehold owner of the property, and the occupiers of the property have been informed that the application has been made. They have been invited to make representations regarding the nomination.

16. The Friends of the Golden Ball state in the nomination form that the property has been a community co-operative run pub since 2012. They state that it offers a community space to socialise in a Grade 2 listed building, where they can take part in traditional bar billiards, darts and other games. They also state that the pub hosts a number of regular events such as music nights, a weekly quiz, art exhibitions and craft sales and the pub also provides a meeting space for various local community groups and private events.
17. No representations have been received from either the owner nor occupier regarding the renewal of the listing.
18. There is significant precedent set elsewhere in the country from other authorities who have accepted pubs onto the ACV lists, even where they are currently run as commercial businesses.
19. Full details of the application are provided in the nomination form attached in Annex 1.
20. Based upon the information provided, it is recommended that the property's listing as an Asset of Community Value is renewed.

The Blue Bell Public House, 53 Fossgate, York

21. The freehold of The Blue Bell is owned by Punch Pubs and Company Limited. The nomination is being made by the 'Regulars of the Blue Bell'. Legal Services have confirmed that a nomination must be considered by the Council if the nominator is someone who meets the eligibility criteria specified in the relevant legislation and if the nomination form includes the information specified in regulation 6 of the ACV Regulations 2012. The 'Regulars of the

Blue Bell' are considered as an eligible body. In accordance with the regulations, the freehold owner of the property, and the occupier, have been informed in writing that the application has been made. They have been invited to make representations regarding the nomination.

22. The 'Regulars of the Blue Bell state in the nomination form that The Blue Bell has been a community hub since 1798. They state that it serves the local residents of York and takes great pride in combating elderly loneliness. They also state that the pub is a unique listed building, which has been loved for generations and that the daily service provided and the regular events held throughout the year are well-loved by the local community.
23. No representations have been received from either the owner or occupier regarding the renewal of the listing.
24. Full details of the application are provided in the nomination form attached in Annex 2.
25. There is significant precedent set elsewhere in the country from other authorities who have accepted pubs onto the ACV lists, even where they are currently run as commercial businesses.
26. Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the property's listing as an Asset of Community Value is renewed.

Hurst Hall Communiy Centre, Strensall Camp.

27. The freehold of Hurst Hall Community Centre is owned by The Secretary of State for Defence/Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). The nomination is being made by Strensall Parish Council. Legal Services have confirmed that a nomination must be considered by the Council if the nominator is someone who meets the eligibility criteria specified in the relevant legislation and if the nomination form includes the information specified in regulation 6 of the ACV Regulations 2012. Strensall Parish Council are considered as an eligible organisation. In accordance with the regulations, the freehold owner and occupier of the property have

been informed in writing that the application has been made. They have been invited to make representations regarding the nomination.

28. Strensall Parish Council state in the nomination form that Hurst Hall Community Centre is a vital part of the local community and that the community centre provides a wide range of activities and clubs for children and families. Located within the community centre is Hive and Stepping Stones Pre-School. It received a good OFSTED rating in February 2018.
29. No representations have been received from the DIO on the proposed listing.
30. Full details of the application are provided in the attachment to the nomination form in Annex 3.
31. Based on the information provided, it is recommended that the property's listing as an Asset of Community Value is renewed.

Consultation Analysis

32. As required by the Assets of Community Value Regulations, the owners and occupiers of the properties have been consulted regarding the applications.
33. The results are contained in the background information on the individual properties.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

34. The applications to renew the listing of The Golden Ball, The Blue Bell, and Hurst Hall Community Centre, Strensall Camp, as Assets of Community Value, can either be accepted or rejected. There are no other options, as it is considered that sufficient information has been provided to make a decision.
35. If the decision is to approve the ACV nomination applications, then the owners of the properties have a statutory right to request a review of that decision by submitting a review request to the

Council within 8 weeks of the decision date. (If the decision is to reject the ACV nomination application, the legislation does not give the nominating group any right to appeal that request, though they could potentially seek a judicial review of the decision by submitting a J.R. claim to the High Court).

Organisational Impact and Implications

36.

- **Financial** - Compensation may be payable by the Council to the owner of any property which is listed. The figure is limited to costs or losses incurred only whilst the asset is on the list and could include such items as legal expenses for appeals, costs relating to the delay in the sale (such as maintenance, security, utility costs, loss of value). We have not experienced any claims over the last 5 years and therefore none are expected going forward.
- **Human Resources (HR)** – None
- **Legal** – Advice and comments have been sought from Legal Services and incorporated in this report.
- **Procurement - None**
- **Health and Wellbeing** - None
- **Environment and Climate action** – None
- **Affordability** - The facilities within this report support local people with advice and information, social and spiritual support and, for example, digital support for those who do not own their own equipment. This will all improve residents' ability to manage financially and improve their health and wellbeing during the Cost-of-Living Crisis.
- **Equalities and Human Rights** – None
- **Data Protection and Privacy** – Data protection impact assessments (DPIAs) are an essential part of our accountability obligations and is a legal requirement for any type of processing under UK data protection and privacy

legislation. Failure to carry out a DPIA when required may leave the council open to enforcement action, including monetary penalties or fines. DPIAs helps us to assess and demonstrate how we comply with all our data protection obligations. It does not have to eradicate all risks but should help to minimise and determine whether the level of risk is acceptable in the circumstances, considering the benefits of what the council wants to achieve. The DPIA screening questions identified that whilst there is processing of personal and/or special categories of personal data and/or criminal offence data, it is not likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals. Therefore, a simple DPIA was completed which identified the data protections risks as well as the mitigations either in place or that need to be put in place, to minimise these identified risks such as redacting or withholding personal identifiable information from the public report where we do not have a lawful basis to publish it, to review and update if needed the relevant published privacy notice covering ACV. The DPIA will also be reviewed following the decisions from this report if required.

- **Communications** - None
- **Economy** - None
- **Specialist Implications Officers** - None

Risks and Mitigations

37. There are no significant risks to these applications.

Wards Impacted

38. Micklegate, Guildhall and Strensall.

Contact Details

For further information please contact the authors of this Decision Report.

Author

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Service Area:	Asset and Property Management

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Report approved:	Yes
Date:	5 th September 2024

Co-author

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Report approved:	Yes
Date:	5 th September 2024

Co-author

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Telephone:	01904 554161
Report approved:	Yes
Date:	6 th September 2024

Annexes

- Annex 1 – The Golden Ball Public House, 2 Cromwell Road, York – Application to add to the list of assets of community value.
- Annex 2 – The Blue Bell, 53 Fossgate, York – Application to add to the list of assets of community value.
- Annex 3 – Hurst Hall Community Centre, Strensall Camp - Application to add to the list of assets of community value.

- Annex 4 – Current list of assets of community value.

Abbreviations used in the used in the report.

ACV – Assets of Community Value

DIO – Defence Infrastructure Organisation

DPIA – Data Protection Impact Assessment



ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE NOMINATION FORM

If you need assistance completing this form, then please refer to the guidance document which can be downloaded from the website www.york.gov.uk/assetsofcommunityvalue or alternatively call 01904 553360.

Section 1

About the property to be nominated

Name of Property:	THE GOLDEN BALL PUBLIC HOUSE
Address of Property:	2 CROMWELL ROAD YORK
Postcode:	YO1 6DU

Property Owner's Name:	UNIQUE PUB PROPERTIES LIMITED
Address:	3 MONKSPATH HALL ROAD SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS
Postcode:	B90 4SJ
Telephone Number:	0121 272 5000
Current Occupier's Name:	THE GOLDEN BALL CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED REG. SOC. 31654R

Section 2

About your community organisation

Name of Organisation:	FRIENDS OF THE GOLDEN BALL
Title:	MS
First Name:	<input type="text"/>
Surname:	<input type="text"/>
Position in Organisation:	CO-ORDINATOR
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Postcode:	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number:	<input type="text"/>

Organisation type:

Click in field for options

Organisation size

How many members do you have?

Section 3**Supporting information for nomination**

Any information entered in this section only may be copied and passed onto the owner of the property you are nominating. Definition of an asset of community value can be found in the guidance document.

Why do you feel the property is an asset of community value? Please give as much information as possible.

The property has been a community co-operative run pub since 2012. It offers the community a space to socialise in the Grade II listed interior, where they can also take part in traditional bar billiards, darts and other games. The pub hosts a number of regular events such as music nights, a weekly quiz, art exhibitions and craft sales, and provides a meeting space for various local community groups and private events.

Section 4**Boundary of Property**

What do you consider to be the boundary of the property? Please give as much detail/be as descriptive as possible. Please include a plan.

The Land Registry freehold title is NYK127068. The area leased by the co-operative for use as a public house is described in title no. NYK127068 and consists of a Bar area, 'Garden room, Bar-billiards room, 'snug', adjoining house, the downstairs of which is in use as a meeting room/office storage and kitchen area; staff accommodation across the first floor; external beer garden, driveway and barbeque area, and garage.

Section 5**Attachment checklist**

- Copy of group constitution (if you are a constituted group)
- Name and home address of 21 members registered to vote in nomination area (if group is not constituted)
- Site boundary plan (if possible)

Section 6**Declaration**

I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this nomination form is complete and accurate.

Signed:

Dated: 28/05/2024

Please e-mail your completed form to property.services@york.gov.uk or post to:

Asset and Property Management

City of York Council

West Offices

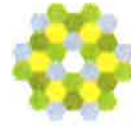
Station Rise

York

YO1 6GA

Land Registry
Official copy of
title plan

Title number **NYK404907**
Ordnance Survey map reference **SE6051SW**
Scale **1:1250**
Administrative area **York**



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Annex 2



ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE NOMINATION FORM

If you need assistance completing this form, then please refer to the guidance document which can be downloaded from the website www.york.gov.uk/assetsofcommunityvalue or alternatively call 01904 553360.

Section 1

About the property to be nominated

Name of Property:	THE BLUE BELL
Address of Property:	53 FOSSGATE, YORK
Postcode:	YO1 9TF

Property Owner's Name:	PUNCH PUBS + CO
Address:	SUBILEE HOUSE, SECOND AVENUE, BURTON-UPON-TRENT
Postcode:	DE14 2WF
Telephone Number:	01283 501600
Current Occupier's Name:	

Section 2

About your community organisation

Name of Organisation:	"REGULARS OF THE BLUE BELL"
Title:	MR
First Name:	
Surname:	
Position in Organisation:	LEADER
Email Address:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone Number:	

Organisation type:

Click in field for options

UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY GROUP

Organisation size

How many members do you have?

32

Section 3
Supporting information for nomination

Any information entered in this section only may be copied and passed onto the owner of the property you are nominating. Definition of an asset of community value can be found in the guidance document.

Why do you feel the property is an asset of community value? Please give as much information as possible.

The Blue Bell has been a community hub since 1798,
It serves the local residents of York and takes great
pride in combating elderly loneliness.
It is a unique building which has been loved for
generations.
The daily service provided and regular events throughout
the year are well-loved by the local community.

Section 4
Boundary of Property

What do you consider to be the boundary of the property? Please give as much detail/be as descriptive as possible. Please include a plan.

The front door and wall lead directly to the street,
The left, right and rear of building are all
enclosed by walls/other buildings.
Plan attached. Blue Bell boundary is in red.

Section 5
Attachment checklist

- Copy of group constitution (if you are a constituted group)
- Name and home address of 21 members registered to vote in nomination area (if group is not constituted)
- Site boundary plan (if possible)

Section 6
Declaration

I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this nomination form is complete and accurate.

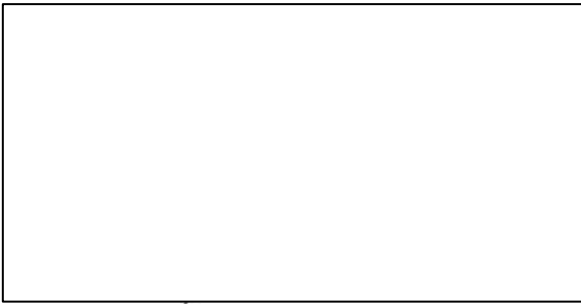
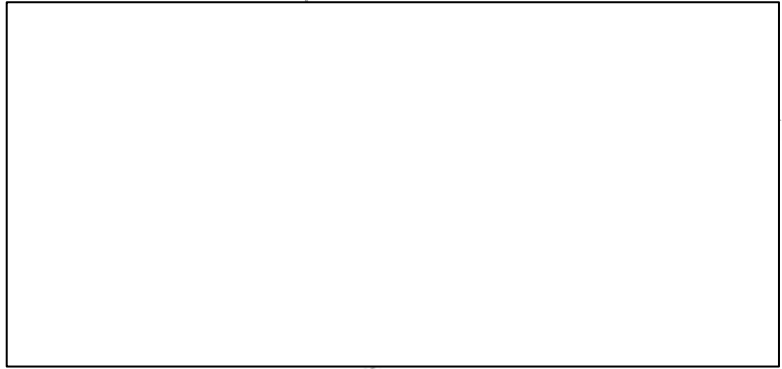
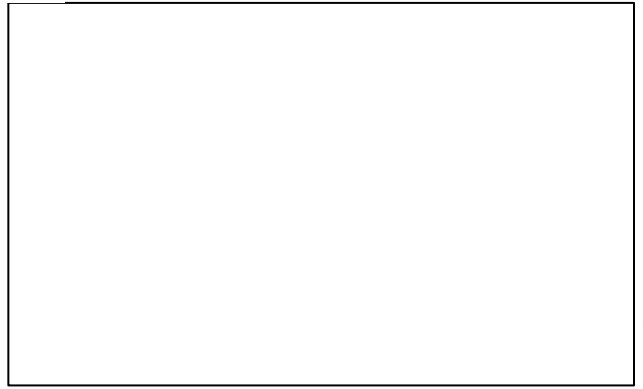
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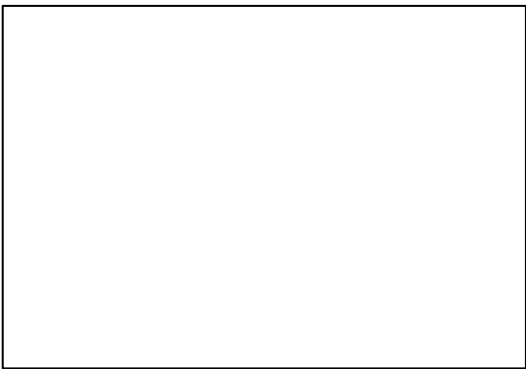
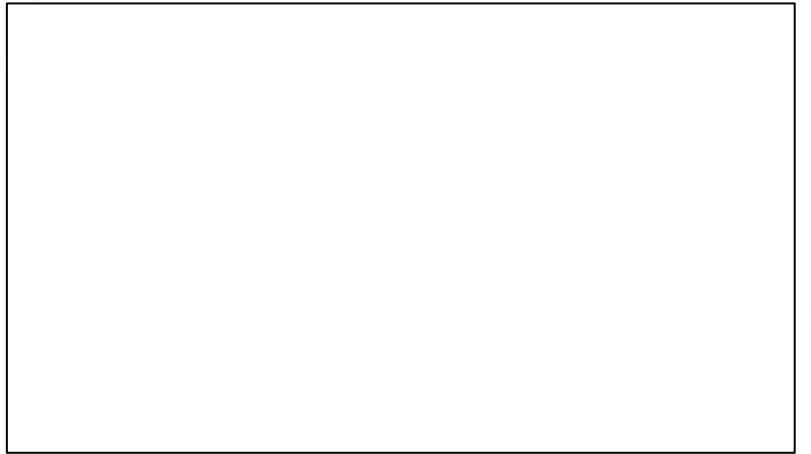
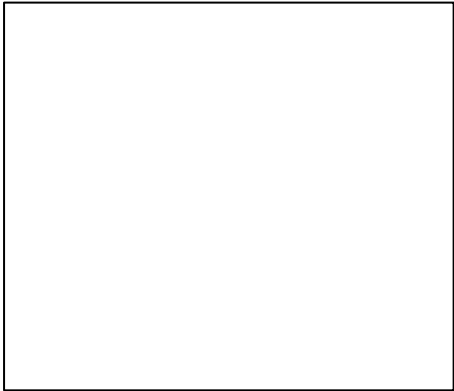
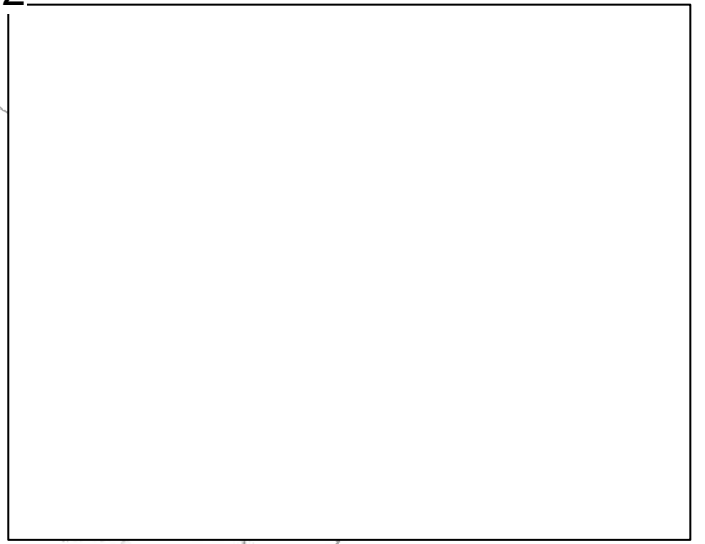
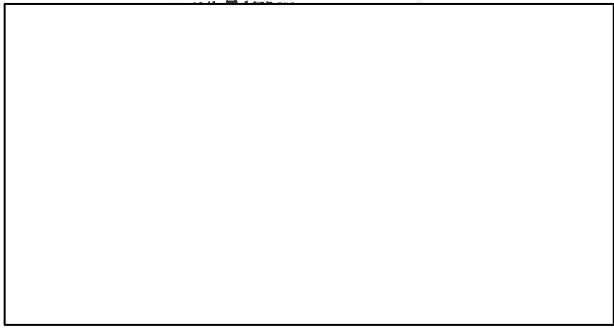
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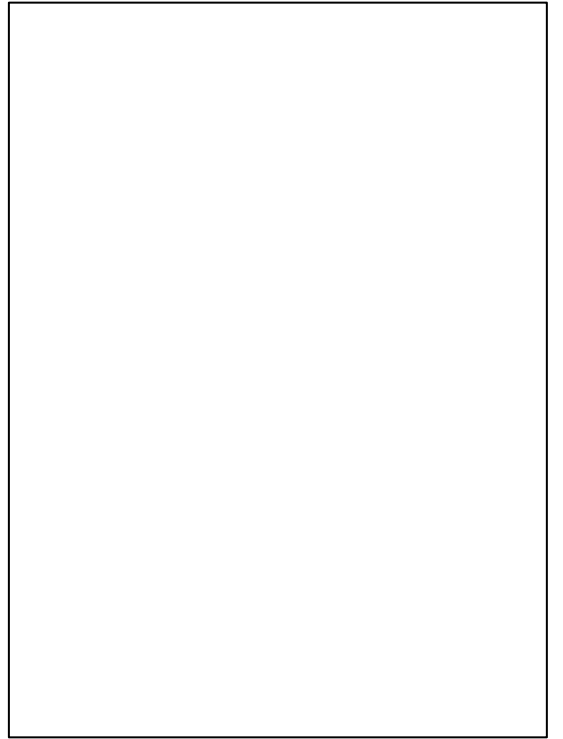
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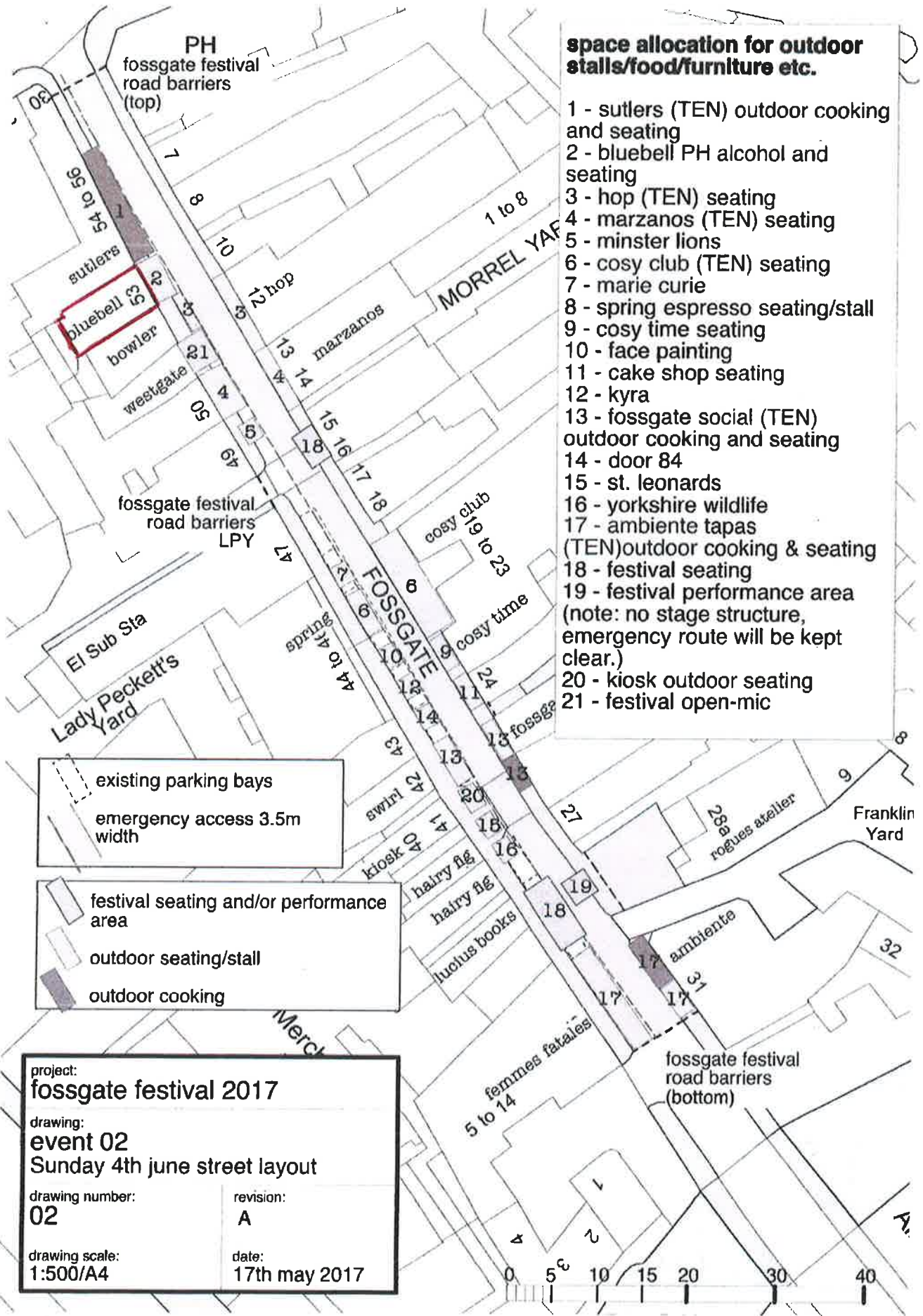
Please e-mail your completed form to property.services@york.gov.uk or post to:
Asset and Property Management
City of York Council
West Offices
Station Rise

LEGIBLE VERSION:









- space allocation for outdoor stalls/food/furniture etc.**
- 1 - sutlers (TEN) outdoor cooking and seating
 - 2 - bluebell PH alcohol and seating
 - 3 - hop (TEN) seating
 - 4 - marzanos (TEN) seating
 - 5 - minster lions
 - 6 - cosy club (TEN) seating
 - 7 - marie curie
 - 8 - spring espresso seating/stall
 - 9 - cosy time seating
 - 10 - face painting
 - 11 - cake shop seating
 - 12 - kyra
 - 13 - fossgate social (TEN) outdoor cooking and seating
 - 14 - door 84
 - 15 - st. leonards
 - 16 - yorkshire wildlife
 - 17 - ambiente tapas (TEN) outdoor cooking & seating
 - 18 - festival seating
 - 19 - festival performance area (note: no stage structure, emergency route will be kept clear.)
 - 20 - kiosk outdoor seating
 - 21 - festival open-mic

existing parking bays
 emergency access 3.5m width

festival seating and/or performance area
 outdoor seating/stall
 outdoor cooking

project:
fossgate festival 2017

drawing:
event 02
Sunday 4th june street layout

drawing number:
02

revision:
A

drawing scale:
1:500/A4

date:
17th may 2017





ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE NOMINATION FORM

If you need assistance completing this form, then please refer to the guidance document which can be downloaded from the website shown below or alternatively call 01904 553360

www.york.gov.uk/assetsofcommunityvalue

Section 1

About the property to be nominated

Name of Property:	HURST HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE
Address of Property:	BORDER ROAD, STRENSALL CAMP, YO32 5SR
Postcode:	YO32 5SR

Property Owner's Name:	DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE / MOD
Address:	KINSTON ROAD, SUTTON COLDFIELD, WEST MIDLANDS
Postcode:	B75 7RL
Telephone Number:	
Current Occupier's Name:	MOD

Section 2

About your community organisation

Name of Organisation:	STRENSALL WITH TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
Title:	MRS
First Name:	<input type="text"/>
Surname:	<input type="text"/>
Position in Organisation:	Parish Clerk
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Postcode:	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number:	<input type="text"/>

Organisation type:

Click in field for options

Organisation size

How many members do you have?

Section 3
Supporting information for nomination

Any information entered in this section only may be copied and passed onto the owner of the property you are nominating. Definition of an asset of community value can be found in the guidance document.

Why do you feel the property is an asset of community value? Please give as much information as possible.

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. LOCATED WITHIN THE CENTRE IS HIVE AND STEPPING STONES PRE SCHOOL. STEPPING STONES RECEIVED A "GOOD" OFSTED ON FEBRUARY 2018.

Section 4
Boundary of Property

What do you consider to be the boundary of the property? Please give as much detail/be as descriptive as possible. Please include a plan.

THE BUILDING, CAR PARK AND ASSOCIATED LAND

Section 5
Attachment checklist

- Copy of group constitution (if you are a constituted group)
- Name and home address of 21 members registered to vote in nomination area (if group is not constituted)
- Site boundary plan (if possible)

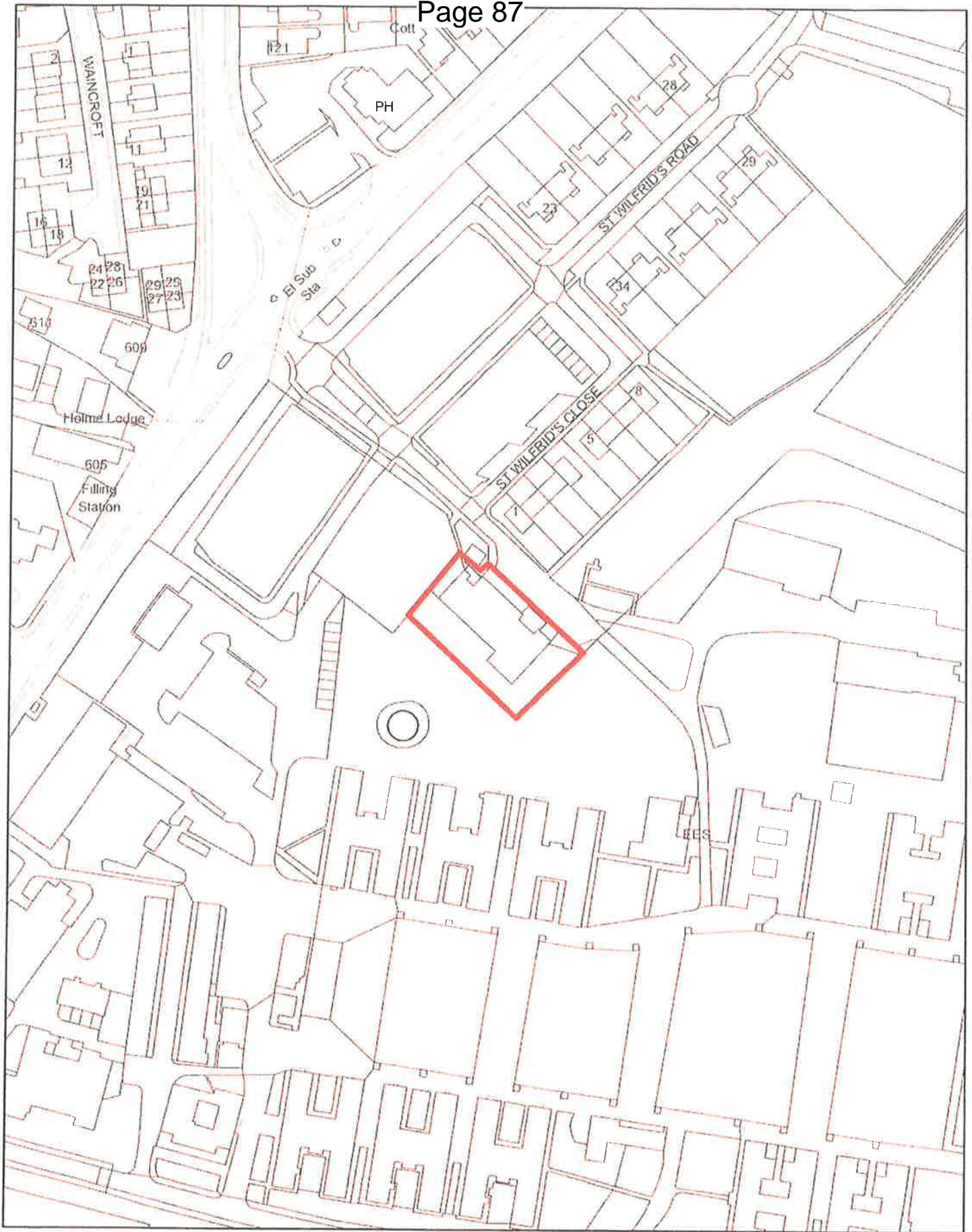
Section 6
Declaration

I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this nomination form is complete and accurate.

Signed:

Dated: 08 JUL 24

Please e-mail your completed form to property.services@york.gov.uk or post to:
Asset and Property Management
City of York Council
West Offices
Station Rise
York
YO1 6GA



**Asset & Property
Management**

St Wilfrid's, Hurst Hall Community Centre, Strensall



SCALE 1:1,500

DRAWN BY: KLM

DATE: 27/08/2019

Originating Group:

Asset & Property Management

Drawing No.

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Annex 4 - Current list of Assets of Community Value

1. The Golden Ball Public House, 2 Cromwell Road, York, YO16 6DU - approved 6th March 2014. Renewed on 15th July 2019.
2. New Earswick and District Bowls Club, Huntington Road, York, YO32 9PX – approved 6th November 2014. Renewed on 24th July 2020.
3. Holgate Allotments, Ashton Lane, Holgate, York, YO24 4LX – approved 29th June 2015. Renewed on 14th February 2022.
4. The Derwent Arms, 29 Osbaldwick Village, Osbaldwick, YO10 3NP – approved 14th March 2016. Renewed on 11th April 2022.
5. The Jubilee Hotel Public House, Balfour Street, York, YO26 4YU – approved 11th July 2016. Renewed 14th June 2021.
6. The Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn York, YO19 4PN – approved 12th September 2016. Renewed on 12th September 2022.
7. Holgate Community Garden and Play Park, Upper St Paul's Terrace, York, YO24 4BS. – approved 12th September 2016
8. The Grey Horse Public House, Main Street, Elvington, York, YO41 4AA – approved 11th July 2022.
9. The Deramore Arms Public House, Main Street, Heslington, York, YO10 5EA. – approved 13th March 2017. Renewed on 12th October 2023.
10. The Carlton Tavern Public House, 104 Acomb Road, York, YO24 4HA – approved 10th April 2017.
11. The Royal Oak Public House, 1 Main Street, Copmanthorpe, York, YO23 3ST. – approved 11th July 2022.
12. The Blue Bell Public House, 53 Fossgate, York, YO1 9TF. – approved 17th October 2017.
13. New Earswick Swimming Pool, Hawthorne Terrace, New Earswick, YO32 4TZ. - approved 12th March 2018.
14. Strensall Library, 19 The Village, Strensall, York, YO32 5XS. – approved 9th April 2018. Renewed 12th October 2023.

15. The Garrison Church of St Wilfrid, St Wilfrid's Road, Strensall, York, YO32 5SJ. – approved 17th September 2018. Renewed 12th October 2023.
16. Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road, Strensall Camp, York, B757RL. – approved 15th July 2019.
17. The Lord Nelson Public House, 9 Main Street. Nether Poppleton , York, YO26 6HS. – approved 16th September 2019.
18. The Blacksmiths Arms Public House, Shipton Road, Skelton, York, YO30 1YJ. – approved 16th September 2019.
19. The car park at rear of the former Murton Arms Public House, Main Street, Murton, York, YO19 5UQ. – approved 24th July 2020.
20. The Ship Inn Public House, Hauling Lane, Acaster Malbis, York, YO23 2UH. – approved 19th December 2022.
21. The Rose and Crown Public House, Main Street, Askham Richard, York, YO23 3PT. – approved 10th July 2023.
22. Vernon House, Vernon Close, Bishopthorpe, York, YO23 2RH. – approved 10th July 2023.