



**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL
SUMMONS**

All Councillors, relevant Council Officers and other interested parties and residents are formally invited to attend a meeting of the **City of York Council** at **The Guildhall, Coney Street, York, YO1 9QN** to consider the business contained in this agenda on the following date and time

Wednesday, 17 July 2024 at 6.30 pm

A G E N D A

1. **Declarations of Interest**

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.

- (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 the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

*Other Registrable
Interests (Directly
Related)*

OR
*Non-Registrable
Interests (Directly
Related)*

Disclose the interest; speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

*Other Registrable
Interests (Affects)*

OR
*Non-Registrable
Interests (Affects)*

Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate, and vote unless the matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of 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 only if the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting, unless 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.*

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 38)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meetings held on 21 March 2024 and 23 May 2024.

3. Civic Announcements

To consider any announcements made by the Lord Mayor in respect of Civic business.

4. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, any member of the public who has registered to address the Council, or to ask a Member of the Council a question, on a matter directly relevant to the business of the Council or the City, may do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Monday, 15 July 2024.**

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this 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 remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

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

5. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order B5. Notice has been received of two petitions to be presented by:

- i. Cllr Waller – regarding an Estate Manager for the Chapelfields Estate.
- ii. Cllr Whitcroft – regarding the proposal to locate a new McDonalds restaurant off Fulford Road.

6. Report of Executive Leader and Questions (Pages 39 - 46)

To receive and consider a written report from the Leader and ask questions on the work of the Executive.

7. Report of Deputy Leader and Questions (Pages 47 - 48)

To receive and consider a written report from the Deputy Leader and, to question the Deputy Leader thereon.

8. Motions on Notice

To consider the following Motions on Notice under Standing Order B13:

Motions submitted for consideration directly by Council, in accordance with Standing Order 22.1

- (i) From Cllr B Burton

York Public Spending

“Council notes:

- Real terms funding reductions to City of York Council over a sustained period;
- The very difficult decisions the council has taken since 2011 to balance the budget - decisions involving all of York’s main political parties;
- The particular challenges for York of having the lowest funding across all public services of any single tier council area in the country, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and the compound effect this has for each

individual public service;

- Acute problems around access to affordable dentistry, A&E and mental health care, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision in schools;
- The prospect of increasingly difficult budget decisions impacting valued council services over the next three years if national funding remains as forecast in the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy;
- York's membership of the F20 Group of lowest funded local authorities in the country and the need for that Group to be active at this point in making its case to the new Government.

Council believes:

- While political groups often have different priorities, councillors share a commitment to the city's services receiving fair funding.
- Further, it believes specific pressure areas for local government require long term solutions and should be a priority for the new Government:

Council resolves:

- To request the Chief Finance Officer and Executive Leader jointly write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request urgency in concluding the Fair Funding Review, first signalled by the Government in 2016, detailing why this is necessary;
- To request this opportunity is used to also highlight service pressures and to request long-term funding certainty to enable the council to plan its services over the period of each four-year electoral cycle;
- To request the Director of Public Health and Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care write to the Secretary of State for Health, pushing for early reform of the NHS dental contract to open up greater access to NHS dentistry in the city as soon as possible;
- To request Executive works collaboratively with other parts of the public sector locally, including York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, to consider how each can make efficiencies and save money by reviewing how services are delivered;
- To put on record its thanks to staff and partners for their work over several years in such challenging circumstances,

and for their continued commitment to service delivery to the city.”

(ii) From Cllr Knight

Giving York’s children the best start in life

“Council notes:

- The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.
- Analysis by the Child Poverty Action Group shows that 900,000 children living in poverty in England do not currently qualify for free school meals because the Conservative Government introduced an arbitrary £7,400 household income threshold in 2018.
- A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns mental health problems and cost-of-living pressures on families are among the complex reasons for increased absenteeism.
- There are 2,737 children living in absolute poverty, representing 8.9% of all children in York.
- There are 3,372 children living in relative poverty, representing 11% of all children in York.

Council believes:

- Scrapping the two-child limit is the most cost-effective way to reduce child poverty. It would lift 250,000 children out of poverty and mean 850,000 children are in less deep poverty across the UK and will lift at least 325 children in York out of absolute poverty.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Council Leader to write to Members of Parliament representing York Central and York Outer, expressing the Council’s support for the scrapping of the two-child benefit cap.
- Ask the Council Leader to write to the new Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to encourage them to scrap the two-child benefit cap.”

(iii) From Cllr Baxter

Ending disenfranchisement in elections

“Council notes:

- The significant increase in voters registering to vote by post since 1997, when fewer than 1 million were registered, to the 2024 Parliamentary Election where an estimated 10 million (approx. 1 in 5) were registered to vote by post;
- The importance of ensuring the postal voting system is robust as it accounts for a growing proportion of votes cast with every election;
- National law prevents Returning Officers from issuing emergency proxy votes to electors whose postal votes have not arrived on time, leaving the potential for them being unable to vote;
- Issues in the 2024 Parliamentary Election with the timely delivery of postal vote applications and ballot papers through the postal system, and the impact this has had on electors with many left unable to vote;
- The recommended solution for the late arrival of postal vote ballot papers being to take them to a polling station instead of posting them fails to acknowledge mobility as one of the main challenges to voting in person and why people register for postal votes in the first place;
- Some electors also being left unable to vote following the requirement to present Voter ID, evidenced by Electoral Commission data returns from polling stations nationally in 2023;
- The requirement for Voter ID disproportionately affecting those from low-income households and other marginalised groups.

Council believes:

- The Government should listen to the legitimate concerns of professional members of the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) who state the legal timetable around postal votes means the current system gets overloaded and cannot cope.
- Disenfranchising voters in a democracy is inexcusable and must be urgently reviewed to ensure it doesn't happen again in future.

Council puts on record its thanks to council and other staff working so hard over local, regional and national elections to support the democratic process.

Council resolves to:

- Ask Group Leaders to write to the Secretary of State with

responsibility for Local Government and to the Minister with responsibility for elections to support the calls of the AEA in requesting a review of current postal and emergency proxy vote rules, including revising the timetable for postal vote registrations, to ensure everyone who registers can vote;

- Request the Government conducts a review of the requirement to present ID to vote that considers:
 - a) the types of ID accepted; and
 - b) if it is shown to disenfranchise registered voters that the requirement to present ID to vote is scrapped altogether.”

(iv) From Cllr Ayre

Fair Funding for York

“Council notes:

- The Institute for Fiscal Studies released a report into the disparity of funding for the same public services in different Council areas
- The IFS finding that the national average of funding per person is £4310 compared to only £3642 for York, ranking York last in England and significantly behind North Yorkshire (£4005 per person) and East Riding (£4059 per person) when all services were considered
- Of the 150 Council areas in England, York ranked 150th overall, 147th in NHS funding, 148th in schools funding, 143rd in Local Government funding, 49th in Police funding and 127th in public health funding. This represents a £668 per person shortfall in spending on the national average or a £135 million gap for the city as a whole
- The work the previous Liberal Democrat led administration did to highlight this issue and help form a cross-party group of councils from across the county to lobby for a fair funding solution for the least well-funded councils in England
- The casework issues ward councillors have experienced in York with residents who can't book a GP appointment, can't register with an NHS dentist, struggle to find school places or have been affected by crime and anti-social behaviour
- The specific challenges York faces relating to increasing numbers of older residents and the need to provide for additional Adult Social Care services

Council believes:

- Successive governments have failed to address the long-

- standing lack of funding across all public services in York
- The new government should invest an extra £300 million into the local authorities that struggle to provide essential and valued services to their local communities due to low core spending power
 - The F20 group is right that there should be a funding floor of 90% of average core spending power of local authorities, if this was enacted York would gain £78 extra per capita
 - Fair funding for York would mean the council would be better able to provide the services that are desperately needed to fix the crisis in funding of Adult Social Care we see in York

Council resolves to:

- Request the Council Leader and Leader of the Liberal Democrat group write to the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge the government to take action to resolve York's chronic underfunding by central government by closing the funding gap between York and the national average within this parliament.
- Request the Council Leader to write to York's Labour MPs to request that they urgently lobby the government to introduce a fair funding solution to close the gap between the most and least funded Council areas in England
- Request the Council to engage with the F20 group of the lowest funded Council areas in England to build an England wide campaign for fair funding and enact their principles in the next funding settlement
- Call on the new government to commit to a funding floor of 90% in the next financial settlement."

9. Questions to the Leader or Executive Members

To question the Leader and/or Executive Members in respect of any matter within their portfolio responsibility, in accordance with Standing Order B11.

10. Report of Executive Member (Pages 49 - 60)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency, and to question the Executive Member thereon, in accordance with Standing Orders B9 and B10.

- 11. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee**
(Pages 61 - 64)
To receive a report from Councillor Fenton, Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee, on the work of the Committee.
- 12. Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members** (Pages 65 - 72)
The report asks Council to agree the adoption of the proposed Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members, attached at Annex A to the report, together with agreeing dispensations for any Members taking Parental Leave in accordance with the Policy, and delegating authority to the Monitoring Officer to confirm such dispensations outside of Council.
- 13. Joint Standards Committee Annual Report for 2023/2024**
(Pages 73 - 80)
To receive a report of the Monitoring Officer presenting the Annual Report of the Joint Standards Committee for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.
- 14. Use of General Exception (Urgency) and Special Urgency Procedures** (Pages 81 - 86)
This report updates Council on the use of Special Urgency procedures, as required by legislation, and as set out within the City of York Council Constitution and provides information on instances where General Exception (i.e. Urgency) Procedures were used.
- 15. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer

Jane Meller

Contact details:

- Telephone: (01904) 551088
- Email: democratic.services@york.gov.uk

Alternative formats

If you require this document in an alternative language or format (e.g. large print, braille, Audio, BSL or Easy Read) you can:



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Call us: **01904 551550** and customer services will pass your request onto the Access Team.



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Select 'Switchboard' from the menu.



We can also translate into the following languages:

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

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

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and

Contact details are set out above.