

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

All Councillors, relevant Council Officers and other interested parties and residents are formally invited to attend a Budget Council 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

Thursday, 27 February 2025 at 6.30 pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and note apologies for absence.

2. 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 in 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; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

*Other Registrable
Interests (Affects)*

OR

Non-Registrable

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

Interests (Affects) (a) *to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests 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 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.*

3. Minutes (Pages 9 - 34)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 November 2024.

4. Civic Announcements

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

5. 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 Tuesday, 25 February 2025.**

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.

6. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order B6. Notice has been received of no petitions.

7. Recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme Monitor 3 2024/25 (Pages 35 - 40)

To consider the recommendations made by Executive, at their meeting on 21 January 2025, regarding the third monitor report on the 2024/25 Capital Programme. These are set out in the attached Part B minute and will be moved by the Executive Leader.

Please note you can view the Executive Budget Agenda for 21 January 2025 here:

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=14504>

8. Recommendations of Executive on the Council's Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30, Capital Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30, Capital Financing and Investment Strategy and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 to 2029/30 (Pages 41 - 56)

To consider the recommendations made by the Executive, at their meeting on 21 January 2025, in relation to:

- i) The Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30 (Revenue Budget)
- ii) The Capital Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30
- iii) The Capital Financing and Investment Strategy
- iv) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators 2025/26 to 2029/30.

These recommendations are set out in the attached report and will be moved by the Executive Leader.

Please note you can view the Executive Budget Agenda for 21 January 2025 here:

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=14504>

- 9. Council Tax Resolution 2025/26** (Pages 57 - 70)
To consider the Council Tax Resolution for 2025/26, as set out in the attached report.
- 10. Pay Policy Statement 2025-26** (Pages 71 - 90)
The purpose of the report is to present for approval the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2025-2026.
- 11. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer

James Parker

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 553659
- Email james.parker@york.gov.uk

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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 میا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

Democracy
Officer

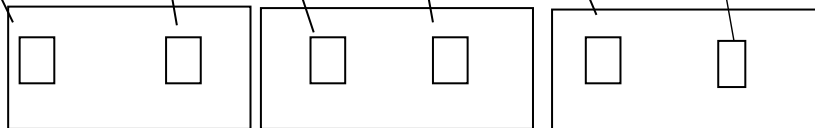
L Tomlinson,
Head of
Democratic
Governance

Cllr Wells,
Lord Mayor

B Roberts,
Monitoring
Officer

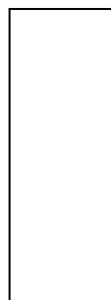
I Floyd,
Chief Operating
Officer

D Mitchell, Chief
Finance Officer



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|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cllr Ravilious | Cllr Pavlovic | Cllr Steels- Walshaw | Cllr Douglas | Cllr Kilbane | Cllr Lomas | Cllr Kent | Cllr Webb |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cllr Clarke | Cllr Nelson |
| Cllr Moroney | Cllr Merrett |
| Cllr Melly | Cllr Wilson |
| Cllr Myers | Cllr Coles |
| | Cllr Warters |
| | |



| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Cllr B Burton | Cllr Rose |
| Cllr Crawshaw | Cllr Whitcroft |
| Cllr J Burton | Cllr Baxter |
| | Cllr Taylor |
| Cllr Steward | Cllr Nicholls |
| Cllr Rowley BEM | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cllr Smalley | Cllr Runciman | Cllr Waller | Cllr Widdowson | Cllr Ayre | Cllr Healey | Cllr Fenton | Cllr Mason | Cllr Orrell | |
| Cllr Hook | Cllr Cuthbertson | Cllr Fisher | Cllr Cullwick | Cllr Watson | Cllr Hollyer | Cllr Wann | Cllr Vassie | Cllr Knight | Cllr Waudby |

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City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the meeting of the City of York Council held in the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York, on Thursday, 21 November 2024, starting at 6.30 pm.

Present: The Lord Mayor (Councillor Wells) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Acomb Ward | Bishopthorpe Ward |
| Lomas Rose | Nicholls |
| Clifton Ward | Copmanthorpe Ward |
| D Myers Wells | Steward |
| Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward | Fishergate Ward |
| Fenton Mason Widdowson | Whitcroft Wilson |
| Fulford and Heslington Ward | Guildhall Ward |
| Ravilious | Clarke Melly Merrett |
| Haxby & Wigginton Ward | Heworth Ward |
| Cuthbertson Hollyer | B Burton Douglas Webb |
| Heworth Without Ward | Holgate Ward |
| Ayre | Kent Steels-Walshaw Taylor |

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Hull Road Ward | Huntington and New Earswick Ward |
| Baxter Moroney Pavlovic | Cullwick Orrell Runciman |
| Micklegate Ward | Osballdwick and Derwent Ward |
| J Burton Crawshaw Kilbane | Rowley BEM Warters |
| Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward | Rural West York Ward |
| Smalley Wann | Hook Knight |
| Strensall Ward | Westfield Ward |
| Fisher Healey | Coles Waller |
| Wheldrake Ward | |

40. Apologies for Absence (6:35 pm)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Waudby and Vassie. Councillor Nelson was also absent on parental leave.

41. Declarations of Interest (6:36 pm)

At this point in the meeting, Members and co-opted members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, or other registerable interests, they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

The following interests were declared:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Cllr Kilbane | Regarding agenda item 8, Motions on Notice, in that he was a shareholder in the Golden Ball Pub which occupied a building that was an asset of community value, and he would take no part in the discussion of the motion relating to protecting more of York's community assets. |
| Cllr Mason and Cllr Cullwick | As a Merchant Adventurer they had no involvement in the decision to hold the meeting in the venue. |

42. Minutes (6:38 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 September 2024 be approved and then signed by the Chair as a correct record.

43. Civic Announcements (6:38 pm)

The Lord Mayor gave a summary of the activities of the civic party since her last update, which included:

- Hosting York's official Remembrance Sunday service and parade, and she thanked everyone who played their part in this.
- Attending the Samoa National Rugby League which was hosted in York.
- Meeting with the York RLFC Valkyrie squad at the Mansion House as part of their celebrations following their historic super league grand final win.
- Attending various celebratory events to mark Diwali and the 35th Anniversary of the York Interfaith Group.

The Lord Mayor noted that following Executive's decision to reallocate unspent points to the Conservative Group from the 2019/2020 nomination to the current points calculation, the Lord Mayoralty for the 2025/2026 municipal year will therefore fall to the Conservative Group. The Lord Mayor invited the Conservative Group to nominate one of its members to serve as the Right Honourable Lord Mayor for the City of York for the municipal year 2025/2026. Cllr Steward nominated Cllr Rowley BEM as the Lord Mayor Elect. Cllr Rowley BEM confirmed that he would be honoured to accept and nominated former Councillor Paul Doughty as his Sheriff.

44. Public Participation (6:45 pm)

It was reported that four speakers had registered to speak at the meeting under the council's Public Participation Scheme.

Flick Williams spoke on Agenda Item 10, Report of the Executive Member for Equalities & Human Rights. Ms Williams raised concerns regarding how the labour administration had responded to the oppression experienced by disabled people in the city. She also highlighted her concerns regarding how the York Access Forum was utilised, a denied supplementary planning document for accessible York and the inefficient implementation of the social model plan.

Steven Byford, a local resident, and a national convenor for Unite, the union that represented Sainsbury's retail workers, spoke on Agenda Item 6, specifically the petition regarding saving Foss Bank Sainsbury's. He thanked the Councillors who had spoken against the landowner decision to not review the lease with Sainsbury's which had forced several job losses and would have an impact on the local community. He called upon the council to

work with the landowners, Sainsbury's and Unite to try to secure a site or retail opportunity for Sainsbury's.

It was noted that the third registered speaker, Gary Graham, had not attended the meeting.

Arshad Mahmood, Chair of York City Taxi Association, spoke on Agenda Item 13, specifically the taxi licensing policy. Mr Mahmood expressed objection to some of the changes proposed in the taxi licensing policy, particularly the decision to enforce black only taxis which could reduce the number of accessible taxis in York and have a financial impact on the struggling York taxi trade. He also explained how the age of the vehicle and the emissions standards were also a concern that would impact on several taxis.

The Lord Mayor thanked all registered speakers for their contributions.

Before moving onto agenda item 6, Petitions, the Lord Mayor invited Cllr Steward to move a motion without notice, under Rule B14 (2) (j) of the Procedure Rules, in order to suspend Procedure Rule B5 (1) to allow him to present a petition. This was seconded by Cllr Nichols and after being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

45. Petitions (6:57 pm)

Subject to the constitution changes proposed in agenda item 12, the following petitions would be presented for reference to either the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee, or referred to the appropriate decision maker, in accordance with the council's petition arrangements:

- i) Cllr Runciman in relation to installing a crossing urgently to enable residents, particularly those who were elderly or disabled to get to the Folk Hall and all its facilities safely from the opposite side of the road.¹
- ii) Councillor Douglas in relation to a tourism tax for York.²
- iii) Councillor Clarke in relation to saving Foss Bank Sainsbury's.³
- iv) Councillor Steward in relation to broadening the 20mph zone in Copmanthorpe.⁴

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Keep updated the petitions log in relation to installing a crossing urgently to enable residents, particularly those who are elderly or disabled to get to the Folk Hall and all its facilities safely from the opposite side of the road. | LN MS SS LN |
| 2. Keep updated the petitions log in relation to a tourism tax for York | |
| 3. Keep updated the petitions log in relation to saving Foss Bank Sainsbury's | |
| 4. Keep updated the petitions log in relation to broadening the 20mph zone in Copmanthorpe | |

46. Report of Executive Leader, Questions, and Executive Recommendations (19:03 pm)

Members were invited to question the Leader on her report. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members in relation to the subjects listed and replied to as indicated:

Our City, Our Community

From Cllr Widdowson: Can you tell us what discussions you have had with employers in the city across all sectors about the impact of the labour government's decision to increase employers' national insurance contributions and lower the threshold above which contributions are payable?

Response: I am always open to speaking with employees about any impacts that they are feeling from labour party government policy but that is not a request that I have had so far. I would say that our MPs are engaging in that more than I have. In fact, I have not had any requests for it.

Supplementary from Cllr Widdowson: So, from all the meetings that you have had nobody has mentioned the national insurance issues with yourself?

Response: No

Supplementary from Cllr Ayre: I am aware that some councils in West Yorkshire have agreed to uplift all their third sector contracts to offset the national insurance, will that be something that York will do?

Response: We will always consider any challenges that our sectors are facing within our budget setting. We do have to

operate within our £150million budget so it will be considered under the process that we are going through now and that is conversations that we have been having internally about any impact that this will raise. We are as always open to suggestions, and we will move forward in an appropriate and responsible manner.

From Cllr Taylor: I know that the council's leadership has taken the National Railway Museum walkway agreement issue very seriously, can the Leader explain where discussions are up to now with the Railway Museum in representing the interests of Leeman Road residents?

Response: It's not been a quick and straightforward process and there has been a lot of negotiation, but we are in the final stages on a letter of agreement to allow Leeman Road residents access through the Great Hall when it is completed from 7:30am in the morning until 7:00pm at night, I may have that slightly wrong, other than when there are notified events. It is a great improvement. There is more work to do in this area and we will continue the conversation. Partnership working gets results for our residents.

Delivering for Our City

From Cllr Healey: Your report refers to the local transport strategy and the ambition to get more people cycling but for this to happen we need road surfaces that are safe to cycle on. Can the Leader say how this ambition fits with the proposal in the current budget consultation for cuts to be made to funding for road maintenance?

Response: It is important that we have safe and good road surfaces and actually at the moment City of York Council puts about five million pounds a year into road surfacing and improvements. That is a discretionary spend on top of what the government currently provides to us. We are looking forward to hearing what residents are going to say to us and those considerations will be taken into account in budget setting.

Supplementary from Cllr Healey: The budget mentions a figure of £60,000, is that £60,000 off the revenue budget or is that £60,000 the capital repayment so the actual reduction in road maintenance will be £500,000 from the capital budget not £60,000 from the revenue budget.

Response: £60,000 is revenue spend.

Supplementary from Cllr Ayre: Where did that figure of £60,000 came from? Why was that figure of £60,000 a year chosen?

Response: It is the revenue cost of the actual spend.

Supplementary from Cllr Ayre: You can pick any figure, why £60,000?

Response: I will get an answer to you.

From Cllr Steward: What were the biggest changes last year that were made to the budget after the consultation?

Response: I will get back to you on that.

From Cllr Clarke: Centre for Cities has recently produced a report comparing visitor spend across the UK's largest sixty-three cities, what does this tell us about York's visitor economy?

Response: York is at the top of the list for the level of spend for overnight visitors across the whole country. This I know has been an aspiration of the hospitality industry in York for a number of years and they have finally reached it. It shows that people who come into York and stay and visit with us really enjoy the vibrancy of our city centre, the retail offer, the restaurants and bars and they are spending their money in York. Tourism is tremendously important to our economy. It is a baseline of what we deliver and so many people work in that industry in York. I would like to thank and congratulate everyone who makes York a fantastic area for visitors and residents.

B – Executive Recommendations

Cllr Douglas moved, and Cllr Kilbane seconded, the following recommendations contained in Minute 46 of the Executive meeting held on 10 October 2024 and Minute 58 of the Executive meeting held on 14 November 2024.

Minute 46: York Youth Justice Service Plan

Recommended:

- i. To Full Council the York Youth Justice plan for approval.

Reason: To ensure the Council fulfils its statutory duty to submit an annual Youth Justice Plan.

Minute 58: Capital Programme Update Monitor 2

Recommended:

- i. To Full Council the adjustments resulting in a decrease in the 2024/25 budget of £10.384m as detailed in the report.

Reason: To enable the effective management and monitoring of the Council's capital programme.

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were declared CARRIED, and it was:

Resolved: That the above recommendations be approved.^{1,2}

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Note approval of the recommendation on the York Youth Justice Service Plan | MK DM |
| 2. Note the approval of the recommendation on the Capital Programme Update Monitor 2 | |

47. Motions on Notice (7:43 pm)

(i) Protecting more of York's Community Assets

Moved by Cllr Baxter, seconded by Cllr Lomas.

"Council notes the important role local assets play in supporting York's communities to thrive. It further notes the broad range of valued local facilities and venues from community centres to pubs, from cinemas to music venues to green spaces and much more.

Council believes that the shift in shopping habits away from the high street, often leaving long-term empty retail units, poses questions for communities and their representatives around broadening the definition of what makes a community asset and how to ensure productive use of local buildings.

Further, council notes the Government's plans, to start in 2026, to reduce business rates for high street retail, hospitality, and leisure businesses, with the aim of creating a more level playing field with online retailers and reducing the number of high street business closures.

Council welcomes:

- the Government's plans to introduce a Community Right to Buy and commitment to strengthen the powers available to communities, including a first refusal on a wider range of Assets of Community Value (ACVs), and doubling the time

period for communities to raise finance to buy ACVs from six months to twelve.

- the role that local people, community groups and other organisations have played in saving and breathing new life into once forgotten or at-risk venues through ACV nominations like New Earswick and District Indoor Bowling Club, Holgate Community Garden and Strensall Library, which should be celebrated.

Council resolves:

- to support individuals and community groups interested in protecting or acquiring an asset by sharing information with them on local and national funders. This includes making links with and working with organisations such as Plunkett UK, Music Venue Trust, and Power to Change;
- to commit to supporting further work to ensure processes for protecting and acquiring community assets are as accessible as possible;
- to request its scrutiny function considers how best the council can:
 1. Promote adding to the local register of Assets of Community Value;
 2. Make it easier for residents and community groups to nominate an ACV;
 3. Celebrate the success stories of ACVs in our community to encourage new nominations;
 4. Prepare for law changes on the Community Right to Buy in securing a wider range of ACVs.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED, and it was:

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.¹

ii) Protecting York’s Primary and Social Care providers

Moved by Cllr Mason, seconded by Cllr Widdowson.

“Council notes:

- The 1.2% increase in Employers National Insurance, the decrease in the threshold to start paying Employers National Insurance from £9,100 to £5,000 and the increase in the allowance to £10,500.
- That these changes will not apply to the public sector, with public bodies being reimbursed for the additional Tax.
- The Liberal Democrat leader, Ed Davey MP, calling on the government to exclude social care providers from the increase in National Insurance.
- The Labour Council's recent decision to cut £450,000 worth of contracts with organisations that provide early intervention and prevention social care services in York.
- The good work that charitable and private providers of hospice care, social care and primary care services play in fulfilling York residents' needs.

Council believes:

- That the Labour Government's proposed increase in National Insurance on charitable and private providers will put further pressure on GP and dental practices, hospices, and community pharmacies in York, which could impact on the availability of timely care for patients.
- That over the last nine years there has been a deterioration in access to Dental and GP appointments in York, the loss of a number of pharmacies around the city and an increasing need for social care services.
- That private and charitable providers help to alleviate pressure on NHS bodies such as secondary care providers.
- That the Labour Council was wrong to cut £110,000 more than had been budgeted from the contracts with organisations that provide early intervention and prevention social care services in York.
- That the Labour Council could have saved Age UK Day Clubs under their own budget proposals but chose to cut them anyway
- That the loss of Age UK Day Clubs is being compounded by the tax increase they, and other charitable organisations, will face when Employer National Insurance contributions increase.
- That the National Insurance increases should not fall on private social care providers, health charities or primary care

providers including GPs, Dental practices, hospices, and pharmacies.

Council resolves:

- To ask the Group Leaders to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that private and charitable social care providers, hospices, and primary care providers including GPs, Dental practices and pharmacies are excluded from her increase to Employers National Insurance contributions.”

Cllr Ben Burton then moved, and Cllr Coles seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“Under Council notes:

In the first bullet point:

- After ‘increase in the’ insert ‘threshold before businesses start paying NI, through NI Employment’

In the fourth bullet point:

- delete ‘cut £450,000 worth of contracts with organisations that provide early intervention and prevention social care services in York.’ and insert ‘approve savings of £339k to Adult Social Care (ASC) community contracts, to help address an inherited £40m budget deficit and deliver a balanced 2024-25 council budget, thereby focusing limited resources on maintaining non-discretionary ASC services.’

Under Council believes:

In the first bullet point:

- delete ‘will’ insert ‘may’
- delete ‘which could’ and after ‘patients’ insert ‘will need to be monitored.’

In the second bullet point:

- delete ‘nine’ insert ‘fourteen’
- before ‘Dental’ insert ‘NHS’

Delete the fourth, fifth and sixth bullet points.

In the now fourth bullet point:

- after ‘that’ insert ‘the impact of’
- after ‘increases’ delete ‘should not fall’

- after 'pharmacies' insert 'and the services they provide to the public, should be taken into account before implementation of the Chancellor's NI increase in April 2025.'

Under Council resolves:

In the first bullet point:

- delete 'private and'
- after 'pharmacies are' insert 'carefully considered for exclusion'
- delete 'excluded'"

On being put to the vote, the amended motion was declared CARRIED, and it was.

Resolved: That the above motion, as amended, be approved.²

iii) Agricultural Property Relief

Moved by Cllr Steward, seconded by Cllr Nicholls.

"Council notes the government's budget's proposed Agricultural Property Relief change from 100% to 50% beyond the first £1 million of assets and that this is in direct contradiction to assurances made by Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs Steve Reed.

Council believes the change fundamentally misunderstands the reasons APR was introduced, why it has remained so long, its importance to UK farming and that a change would have a devastating effect including:

1. An adverse impact on nearly 250 family farms in York.
2. A need for farms to find simply non-existent funds to pay IHT, resulting in forced asset sales and the likely less suitable but more profitable land use.
3. A rise in costs on farmers already hard hit by factors including Defra cuts, supplier and energy price inflation and more regulation.
4. Tax receipts will be much smaller than believed and the real winners will be big business, financial organisations and especially the overseas wealthy who will be able to buy UK farmland without being subject to the same taxes.
5. The inevitable breaking up of farms which have been in families for generations and reduction in food security.

Council agrees with the significant and wide-ranging opposition to the change across all political sides and notably from crucial bodies including the National Farmers Union, Country Land and Business Association and resolves to:

1. Acknowledge rural hardship remains a largely unrecognised issue which includes many reliant on farming and that having an asset worth a lot on paper often does not translate into high income. To specifically ensure council owned, funded, or influenced welfare bodies are reaching out to all of York including often harder to reach rural areas.
2. Write to York's two MPs stressing the importance of farming for York and urging them to oppose the change.
3. Have a report prepared for the Executive Leader to discover how better the council can work with York's farms and farm workers and support their work."

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared LOST and it was

Resolved: That the above motion be not approved.

[An adjournment took place between 8:43 pm and 9:20 pm]

iv) Renewing York's commitment to Fairtrade

Moved by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr B Burton.

"Council notes:

- 2024 marks York celebrating its 20th anniversary of becoming a Fairtrade City;
- York Fair Trade Forum organised events throughout the year to mark York's 20th anniversary and status as a Fairtrade City;
- York Central's MP, Rachael Maskell, has tabled an Early Day Motion ([EDM 509](#)) congratulating York on this milestone and further congratulates York Fair Trade Forum for its work in promoting fairtrade in York and beyond.

Council believes:

- Fairtrade plays a vital role in ensuring farmers and workers across the world are treated justly with better terms, including fair pay, so they can develop strong, sustainable businesses, helping to reduce global inequalities;
- Fair prices provide an immediate lifeline for farmers and workers struggling with low incomes and disadvantaged by global trade;
- Trade can be made fairer and more sustainable by farming co-operatives, businesses, and governments – including local government – working together, supporting and promoting Fairtrade;
- York's commitment to maintain its status as a Fairtrade City raises awareness and signals the role York can play in promoting fairtrade beyond its boundaries;
- York Fair Trade Forum and the Fairtrade Foundation should be supported in their promotion and advocacy work.

Council resolves:

- To renew its commitment to Fairtrade and to York's status as a Fairtrade City, continuing to raise awareness and supporting actions that make global trade fairer;
- To continue to appoint a named councillor to York Fair Trade Forum, to provide a strong link with the council and to support its work;
- To work with York Fair Trade Forum to ensure York continues to meet and exceed the requirements necessary to maintain its status as a Fairtrade City;
- To consider offering Fairtrade goods wherever possible and available, for example in any catering and in-house café provision;
- To ensure Fairtrade remains a feature following the current update of the council's Social Value Strategy, so it is considered through its procurement processes, and those of its suppliers, where applicable;
- To promote Fairtrade issues and practices among local businesses, commercial and other organisations;
- To share best practice about Fairtrade and sustainable development with other public bodies, stakeholders and partners;

- To request the Executive Leader writes to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade to request their support for the [Fairtrade Foundation's 'three asks'](#) of the new Government:
 1. Develop trade policy that works for people and planet. Policies that must improve resilience for the smallholder farmers and workers producing food overseas, and support innovative business approaches to enhance environmental and social sustainability;
 2. Legislate to ensure responsible business. The legislation must ensure that businesses address human rights and environmental violations in supply chains, including deforestation, while taking full account of the needs of farmers and workers;
 3. Strengthen UK aid by responding to the needs and priorities of farmers and workers who make a crucial contribution to the global food system.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED and it was:

Resolved: That the above motion be approved.³

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. To take forward actions requested in relation to motion (i) Protecting more of York's Community Assets. | DM SS CF |
| 2. To take forward actions requested in relation to motion (ii) Protecting York's Primary and Social Care providers. | |
| 3. To take forward actions requested in relation to motion (iv) Renewing York's commitment to Fairtrade. | |

48. Questions to the Leader or Executive Members (9:26 pm)

Members were invited to question the Leader or Executive Members. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members, and replied to as indicated:

Questions to Cllr Ravilious, Executive Member for Transport

From Cllr Nichols: Is there any possibility of a one-way system around South Bank to try and prevent the standoff between lorries and buses?

Response: I appreciate that there are problems with the number 11 bus, and we are recognising that, and First Bus are recognising that. The reliability is poor so I have asked officers to review and check the reliability figures and we will also look at measures to overcome some of the pinch points and the congestion in the city. What we are learning is that most of the unreliability of our bus services across the city is due to congestion. The city centre sustainable travel corridor that we will be consulting on in the new year is that first step towards really addressing the congestion and that is important in the longer term, but we still have to do things in the shorter term too. We need to look at some of the pinch points on the route such as that South Bank loop and we have some funding as part of our BSIP award to do exactly those kinds of measures. We can ask officers to look at this and I am very happy to continue working with you to improve that route.

From Cllr Widdowson: Council finances continue to be reliant on parking income and the ongoing budget consultation includes a proposal to further increase city centre parking charges. Can you please set out what assessment has been made to the likely impact on council finances if this were to lead to significant decreases in parking income and whether alternative sources of revenue have been identified?

Response: This is a budget consultation, and we are looking for feedback from people about their thoughts and feelings on the measures in there. It is currently far cheaper to drive into York and park then catch the bus into York. Our transport strategy wants to enable people to use sustainable means of travel, so we have taken the approach of matching a family bus ticket cost with the first two hours of parking in the city centre. If you are coming into York for two hours or more, it is cheaper to catch the bus into the city than to drive and park. When we look at other cities where parking prices are similar or higher we are seeing from their evidence that it did bring about some behaviour change and not necessarily a drastic income change. It is a suggestion, and we will wait to see what the public feedback is.

Questions to Cllr Kent, Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change

From Cllr Fenton: The ongoing second phase of the budget consultation seeks views on a proposal that could see some local

recycling banks removed but others retained. Can you provide an understanding on what is being proposed and how those banks that serve a specific community need would be identified so that residents can provide informed feedback to the consultation. Is there anything you can say about how those recycling banks will be identified?

Response: This is a specific community need as opposed to general recycling because the principle is that across the city everybody does have kerbside recycling. This is looking to see if there are areas which do not need an additional site. It will also be looking at geographies so that if you have multiple sites close by each other maybe there can be some rationalisation in that sense. Not all are council owned many of them are run by supermarkets and maybe there's duplication there but those would not be part of the consultation, it is only the council owned ones that are being looked at. I would be happy to answer questions about more specific sites and see if they are part of the review following the meeting.

Cllr Fenton: Clarification around recycling banks in supermarkets would be helpful, particularly Morrisons which serves a specific community need for people who may not have access to a car to go to the tip.

Supplementary from Cllr Steward: Is the council looking to recycle blister packs?

Response: The difficulty with it is the expense. There have been multiple attempts at this with doctor surgeries and pharmacies across York, but most have withdrawn it due to the expense. We do not have the facility to separate the foil from the plastic and I have not seen any examples within any other local authority. Some of the supermarkets and Boots recycle old make-up and more bespoke recycling is going on within stores. We are looking at increased recycling across the city with the Sustainability Clinic at York University. The waste group of York Climate Commission is also trying to set up more varieties and more information spreading about where you can recycle different items which we cannot recycle as a council.

Questions to Cllr Pavlovic, Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities

From Cllr Crawshaw: I understand that you have recently agreed to consult on implementing a public space protection order (PSPO) to tackle public urination, defecation, and dog fouling. Public urination can be a problem in the Micklegate Ward associated with

race days and people drinking and I just wondered what this PSPO would mean in reality for residents affected by this behaviour?

Response: Urination in the streets and shop doorways is a vile thing to happen and in the last year alone there were over 4,000 incidents in the city centre. The public protection order will give the council powers to impose on spot fines as opposed to the previous policy which involved summoning somebody to court and consequently it rarely happened. Council staff, BID Rangers and the police will now have the opportunity when they come across somebody urinating in the street to get their name and impose a fixed penalty notice. I hope it is going to make a difference.

Supplementary from Cllr Healey: On a very personal level, I would strongly commend any enforcement action you can do in Micklegate particularly on race days and at the weekends and particularly in St Martin's Lane.

Response: The racecourse themselves have been very proactive in supporting this initiative. It is behaviour modification as opposed to money raising. As I said at the Decision Session, it is about changing people's behaviour and understanding of just how unacceptable this is for residents, householders, shop owners and tourists. We want to see it stop.

49. **Report of Executive Member (9:43 pm)**

A written report was received from Cllr Lomas, Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality, and Inclusion.

Members were then invited to question the Executive Member on her report. Questions were received from the floor from the following Members in relation to the subjects listed and replied to as indicated:

Council Tax

From Cllr Steward: There are three views on council tax, that it should be frozen as advocated by Keir Starmer a year ago, that there should be an increase such as 5% as is the current labour government policy, or that there should be no cap, in which camp is the Executive Member?

Response: I am happy to talk about our approach to council tax. What we would like to do is to make sure the council can continue to provide the services that our residents need and rely on. What I would prefer to do with council tax personally is less relevant to

this conversation. I think we will be forced into a position to increase council tax in order to safeguard those frontline services that our residents rely on so much.

Supplementary from Cllr Ayre: How much precisely would that 5% increase raise and how much of that would be offset against increased in contract costs as a result of the National Insurance increases?

Response: I will write to you with those figures.

Supplementary from Cllr Ayre: Do you agree with my assertion that probably about 2.5% of the council tax increase will go directly on the national insurance cost of contracts?

Response: I have answered your question.

Affordable Housing on York Central

From Cllr Taylor: Concerning affordable housing on York Central, can the Executive Member explain how plans have changed over the last year and how she sees the role of social housing helping meet the housing needs of York residents on this site?

Response: This is a really important issue for residents of York. We have entered productive discussions with all the partners in the York Central partnership and we are now looking at not the 20% affordable housing that was originally planned but in fact we are looking at ways that we can double that amount to providing 40% affordable housing on that site. It is an exciting development that actually delivers for the people of York and gives the opportunity for ordinary people in York to be able to live in their own city which is something that we are all very concerned about at the moment.

Supplementary from Cllr Healey: I believe the Leaders report had a figure of up to 50% should the figure that the council should be holding you to account for be 40, 50 or 20?

Response: The original plans for York Central were 20%. Your previous administration agreed 20% so that is the figure which you can hold us to account on but I am telling you that we are ambitious for our city and so we are going to go further than that.

Banking Hubs

From Cllr Coles: I wanted to pick up on the great news about the banking hub for Acomb that was recently confirmed and to ask the Executive Member if she could outline how Councillors locally had contributed to this ambition and why it is so important for residents living in the immediate Westfield, Acomb and Holgate areas and perhaps she could add anything else that could be done to support

banking hubs across the city so that we can deliver better financial support for residents.

Response: The news that the last bank branch in Acomb Front Street was closing was a devastating blow to a lot of local residents but also to the other businesses in that busy high street area. Councillor Waller started a petition to encourage the Halifax not to close their branch but unfortunately that was a business decision that they had already made. I pay tribute to Councillors Rose, Coles, and Nelson for the work that they did with Cash Access UK to ensure that they were able to consult widely with residents, with businesses and with community groups in the area. I pay tribute to the work that Councillor Taylor did in reaching out to Cash Access UK to make sure that Acomb was on their list for a banking hub. I pay tribute to the work that everyone did in making sure that Acomb was not forgotten when sadly the last bank branch was closed. We have other areas in the city where we have high street shopping areas that are out of the city centre that have lost their bank branches already and I think that's a great model for how other ward councillors can reach out to Cash Access UK to link working with them on that public consultation and making sure that the strength of feeling is known. Banks will not necessarily change their minds about closing on the strength of a petition that is submitted to them, but we have an alternative and it is important that we look at the future and really engage with that alternative.

Supplementary from Cllr Steward: Isn't there a great opportunity for building societies to potentially be encouraged into some of those gaps? Could we as a council potentially reach out proactively to some of those societies?

Response: Previously there were a number of building societies located in Acomb Front Street as well and they also closed their branches over a period of time. I think that it is clear that these building societies which offer banking facilities are taking similar approaches to the other high street banks in centralising their branch structures. I note that some of them have made pledges about not closing branches, but I suspect they will take the same approach of not wanting to reopen branches in those areas. If there are any links that we can make to encourage branches of banks or building societies which offer banking facilities to open anywhere in our out of city centre shopping areas, then we absolutely will do.

50. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee (9:54 pm)

A written report was received from Cllr Fenton, Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee, on the work of the committee.

51. Recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee (9:54 pm)

Council received a report from the Monitoring Officer regarding approval and adoption of revisions to the Constitution, in accordance with the recommendations of the Audit & Governance Committee.

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee expressed his gratitude to the councillors and officers that had contributed to ensure the revisions were fit for purpose.

Recommended:

- i) Council is recommended to approve the New Council Procedure Rules.

Reason: Approval is required in order to update the Council Procedure Rules.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was declared CARRIED and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendation be approved.¹

Action Required

- 1. To note the approval of the new Council Procedure Rules and take any action required. BR

52. Recommendations of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee (9:56 pm)

Council received a report which presented the recommendations of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee from the Licensing & Regulatory Committee meetings held on 8 October 2024 and 4

November 2024, as contained in the reports set out in the Council agenda from page 221.

Cllr Melly moved, and Cllr Cuthbertson seconded the following recommendations contained in the reports subject to correcting a typographical error throughout the new taxi licensing policy and its annexes that referred to the largest private hire operators as being 99+ vehicles when it should be 91+ vehicles.

New Taxi Licensing Policy

Recommended:

- i) That, in accordance with Option 1, Council approves the new policy as recommended by Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee to ensure the Taxi Licensing Policy complies with Statutory Standards and Best Practice Guidance (or any departures can be locally justified) thereby aiming to make taxi journeys in York even safer, more environmentally friendly and provide greater customer choice particularly for disabled passengers.

During debate, Cllr Mason proposed, and Cllr Widdowson seconded an amendment to the policy at section 14.4 in that Hackney Carriage wheelchair accessible vehicles should be exempt from being mandatory black in colour.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared LOST.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was declared CARRIED, subject to including the typographical error, and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendation, subject to including the typographical error as noted above, be approved.¹

Gambling Act 2005 - Statements of Licensing Policy

Recommended:

- i) That in accordance with Option 1, Council approves the new Statement of Licensing Policy as recommended by Members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

Reason: To meet the legislative requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was declared CARRIED and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendation be approved.²

Action Required

- 1. To note approval of the new Taxi Licensing Policy subject to updating the typographical error to 91+ vehicles and take any action required. MB LC
- 2. To note approval of the new Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Licensing Policy and take any action required.

53. 2025/26 Corporate Calendar (10:19 pm)

The following recommendations contained in the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer at pages 451 and 452 of the agenda papers was moved by Cllr Douglas and seconded by Cllr Kilbane.

Recommended:

- i) That the Corporate Calendar of meetings for 2025/26, at Annex A to the report, be approved.
- ii) That the Director of Governance be authorised to make any changes to the Calendar as may prove necessary from time to time.

Reasons:

- i) To provide a framework for the democratic and decision-making functions which will underpin delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.

- ii) To ensure that the calendar of meetings is implemented to assist with the forward planning and better management of meetings.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was declared CARRIED and it was

Resolved: That the above recommendation be approved.¹

Action Required

- 1. To note approval of the 2025/26 Corporate Calendar and take any action required. LT

54. Pay Policy Statement 2024 - 25 (10:19 pm)

The Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer informed Council that there was an error in the agenda pack in that the previous version of the pay policy statement had been submitted and he proposed deferring the item. It was acknowledged that the correct report and pay policy statement would be circulated to Members and published online.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation to defer the item was declared CARRIED, and it was

Recommended:

- i) That the item be deferred to the next council meeting and the correct report and pay policy statement be circulated to Members and published online.¹

Reason: In order to ensure the correct report and pay policy statement were being considered.

Action Required

- 1. To defer the item to the next council meeting and circulate the correct report and pay policy statement to Members and publish online. BR

55. Use of General Exception (Urgency) and Special Urgency Procedures (10:20 pm)

The following recommendation contained in the report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer at page 492 of the agenda papers was considered:

That Council is recommended to note the report.

Reason: To comply with legislative and constitutional requirements and ensure full transparency.

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared CARRIED, and it was

Resolved: That the report be noted.

56. Appointments and Changes to Membership (10:20 pm)

Resolved: That the appointments and changes to membership set out in the agenda at page 497 be noted.¹

Action Required

1. To note approval of the revised appointments list, make the changes on the system and inform organisations as required LC

Cllr Wells

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.20 pm]

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Meeting | Executive |
| Date | 21 January 2025 |
| Present | Councillors Douglas (Chair), Kilbane (Vice-Chair), Kent, Lomas, Pavlovic, Ravilious and Steels-Walshaw |
| In Attendance | Councillor Ayre |
| Officers in Attendance | Ian Floyd – Chief Operating Officer Bryn Roberts – Director of Governance Debbie Mitchell – Director of Finance |
| Apologies | Councillors Webb |

Part B Minute – Matters Recommended to Council

75. Capital Programme Update Monitor 3 (16:53)

This item was discussed as part of the discussion under Minute 74. Finance & performance Monitor 3. Please see that minute for more detail.

Recommended:

- i. Recommend to Full Council the adjustments resulting in a decrease in the 2024/25 budget of £20.923m as detailed in the report;

Reason: to enable the effective management and monitoring of the Council's capital programme.

77. Financial Strategy 2025/26 (17:13)

The Director of Finance introduced the report and highlighted the key areas which included a rise in Council tax, £22 million of investment, and £6.4 million of savings. She noted that it was a one-year settlement in light of the governments upcoming spending review. As the Section 151 officer she confirmed that while there were challenges and risks, she could confirm that

the budget was prudent and made provision for known pressures.

The Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality, and Inclusion thanked officers for their work on the financial strategy and residents for participating in the largest budget consultation undertaken by the Council. She thanked partners across the city whose input had been important in the Council reaching its current financial position. She highlighted that from the consultation residents had been clear in wanting to see services protected and welcomed that the strategy wouldn't require service cuts in the budget.

The Executive Member noted that the Executive had made decisions much as raising parking charges rather than cutting road maintenance. She confirmed that residents had responded in favour of a tourism levy, so the Council was exploring this. She stated that the Executive had inherited a Council that was too big for its current budget and the Executive would seek to find efficiency savings without cutting service provision.

The Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing, and Adult Social Care highlighted the challenges the Council faced in social care with an aging population and cases of complex needs. She welcomed the investment in the budget to support elderly, disabled, and residents with complex needs and help meet what was the Council's statutory duty.

The Executive Member for Transport welcomed the £20,000 of funding of a study for how a dial and ride service could be delivered. She noted that the increase in parking charges and use of dynamic pricing at peak times would help improve highways and transport in the city. She also confirmed that the levelling out of prices across all York's car parks would ensure no one needed to search for the cheapest car park and after consultation with business the Council had agreed to a 30% discount for minster badge holders.

The Executive Leader stated that the Council had made a great array of improvements. She highlighted with a better settlement from government the Council had been able to double its hardship fund to support residents with the cost of living.

Recommended:

- i. Recommend to Council approval of the budget proposals as outlined in the report. In particular:
 - a. The net revenue expenditure requirement of £156.921m;
 - b. A council tax requirement of £120.180m;
 - c. The revenue growth proposals as outlined in paragraphs 51 to 53;
 - d. The 2025/26 revenue savings proposals as outlined in annex 2;
 - e. The fees and charges proposals as outlined in annex 3;
 - f. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 25/26 budget set out in annex 5;
 - g. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) proposals outlined from paragraph 141;
 - h. The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy set out in annex 7, including delegation to the Director of Finance to determine the costs that can be charged to the transformation programme.

Reason: To ensure a legally balanced budget is set.

78. Capital Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30 (17:41)

The Director of Finance introduced the reports on the Capital Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30 and the Capital & Investment Strategy. She confirmed that £61 million would be added to the capital budget to fund an additional year of capital investment. She also outlined that the Council has included a policy on the flexible use of capital receipts to fund transformation.

The Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality, and Inclusion outlined the importance of the capital budget which allowed the Council to invest in new projects and maintain the Council's assets both historic and modern. She stated that the Executive had to review the Council's capital projects of the previous administration to ensure projects that they use grant funding and borrowing would be deliverable.

The Executive Member for Housing, Planning, and Safer Communities spoke on the Housing Revenue Account and

highlighted the additional funding for repairs which had brought down the time a Council property was a void. He noted that these improvements brought in additional funding to the Council and helped address housing needs.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Economy & Culture stated that the Executive maintained the ambition for duelling the outer ring road. However, he noted that with the high cost of construction the Council's first priority would be to deliver the connections needed for strategic development sites in the local plan while the Council would seek funding for the additional work on the outer ring road.

Recommended:

- i. To recommend the Council agree to the revised capital programme of £385.383m that reflects a net overall increase of £60.947m (as set out in table 2 and in Annex 1). Key elements of this include:
 - a. New schemes funded by prudential borrowing totalling £8.150m as set out in table 3;
 - b. Extension of prudential borrowing funded Rolling Programme schemes totalling £24.712m as set out in table 4;
 - c. Extension of externally funded Rolling Programme schemes totalling £11.935m as set out in table 5;
 - d. An increase in HRA funded schemes totalling £16.150m funded from a combination HRA balances/capital receipts as set out in table 6;
- ii. To recommend that Council noted the total increase in Council borrowing as a result of new schemes being recommended for approval is £32.862m the details of which are considered within this report and the financial strategy report.
- iii. To recommend that Council approve the full restated programme as summarised in Annex 2 totalling £385.383m covering financial years 2025/26 to 2029/30 as set out in table 10 and Annex 2.

Reason: To ensure the Council maintains the funding for the capital programme.

This item was discussed as part of the discussion under Minute 78. Capital Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30. Please see that minute for more detail.

Recommended:

- i. Recommended to Full Council approval of the capital and investment strategy at annex A.

Reason: To meet our statutory obligation to comply with the Prudential Code 2017.

80. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26 - 2029/30 (17:57)

The Director of Finance introduced the report and confirmed that there was nothing that needed to be specifically highlighted and that the report would be considered by the Council's Audit and Governance committee prior to going to Budget Council.

Recommended:

- i. Recommended to that Council approve, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 (revised):
 - a. The proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 including the Annual Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement;
 - b. The prudential indicators for 2025/26 to 2029/30 in the main body of the report;
 - c. The specified and non-specified investments schedule (Annex B);
 - d. The scheme of delegation and the role of the Section 151 officer (Annex D).

Reason: To ensure the continued effective operation and performance of the Council's Treasury Management function and ensure that all Council treasury activity is prudent, affordable and sustainable and complies with policies set.

Cllr Douglas, Chair

[The meeting started at 4.30 pm and finished at 5.59 pm].



| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Meeting: | Council |
| Meeting date: | 27 February 2025 |
| Report of: | Director of Finance |
| Portfolio of: | Cllr Katie Lomas, Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Equalities and Inclusion |

Decision Report: Recommendations of Executive on the Council's Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30, Capital Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30, Capital Financing and Investment Strategy and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 to 2029/30

Subject of Report

1. This report presents to Council the recommendations of Executive for approval in respect of the revenue budget proposals for 2025/26, the Capital Budget for the period 2025/26 to 2029/30, the Capital Financing and Investment Strategy and the Treasury Management Strategy for the period 2025/26 to 2029/30. This report should be read in conjunction with the reports presented to Executive on 21 January.

Benefits and Challenges

2. The budget proposals outline some significant investment into both adults and children's social care to enable the Council to continue delivering vital support to our most vulnerable residents. This essential funding will deliver a financially sound budget, that reflects current pressures, whilst also ensuring a safe and effective service can be delivered across all statutory care services.
3. Additional investment totalling £300k is also being made to support those residents experiencing the ongoing effects of the cost of living crisis, with funding being made available for food and fuel vouchers through the York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS). More funding opportunities for organisations across the city who are supporting residents will also be available through Financial Inclusion Steering Group grants.

4. The Capital Budget details the additional investment being made into a range of schemes including:
 - i) £500k for a Park Improvement Fund.
 - ii) £600k in riverbank repairs to facilitate the delivery of improved walking and cycling provision between Leeman Road and the city centre.
 - iii) £800k in repairs and modernisation of council homes.
 - iv) £5.2m to both provide new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and invest in existing pitches and sites to improve the quality of accommodation and facilities for residents.
5. The challenges continue to be the uncertainty around future funding from Government alongside managing increasing demand across all services, especially within social care.
6. The significant financial challenges facing Local Government are a national concern and many Councils across the country are experiencing significant financial pressures and are struggling to balance their budgets. This is a national challenge, and inflationary cost pressures, increasing demand for services and short term funding settlements from Government continue to have a financial impact on the Council.
7. Analysis from the Local Government Association (LGA) shows that, due to inflation and wage pressures alongside cost and demand pressures, Councils in England face a £2.3 billion funding gap in 2025/26, rising to £3.9 billion in 2026/27.
8. Changes in the way Local Government is funded have masked the reductions in funding for Councils since 2010/11. However, when comparing Core Spending Power (the measure used by Government) whilst this has increased by 22% since 2010/11, in real terms and mainly due to inflation, there has been a reduction in spending power of 11.7% for York.
9. Despite the overall improvement of the Council's financial position, the next few years will bring some of the most significant financial challenges we have ever experienced. The delivery of the Financial Strategy will remain extremely challenging for residents, other partners, members and officers. It is important that we continue to not underestimate the scale of the challenge ahead. The level of savings required over the next four years will inevitably require reductions in service levels and will result in some services stopping

completely. Maintaining robust financial management, clear priorities and a focus on cost control is essential to ensuring our continued financial sustainability and resilience.

10. Whilst the local and national financial position for local government is clearly very strained, considerable work is ongoing to secure inward investment into the city to ensure that the Council's priorities can still be achieved.
11. Since the Executive Meeting the Final Local Government Settlement has been announced. The only change from the draft settlement is that the new Children's Social Care Prevention Grant has increased from £369k to £400k. The additional funding will all be allocated to Children's services in line with the grant conditions.

Policy Basis for Decision

12. The Financial Strategy aims to ensure that, as far as possible, resources are aligned to the Council's priorities. It is vital that the Council sets a robust budget each year. Alongside the income generation and other savings included in Annex 2 to the Financial Strategy report, the Council's transformation programme is key to the delivery of a balanced budget. The cross-cutting transformation programme will coordinate activity that ensures the Council has a sustainable and more efficient operating model, prioritising the delivery of statutory services alongside those initiatives that will contribute to the achievement of the Council Plan.

Financial Strategy Implications

13. The reports outline the budget proposals for the year ahead and ensures the Financial Strategy is delivered.

Recommendation and Reasons

Revenue Budget

14. Executive recommends that Council:
 - i. Approves the budget proposals outlined in the Financial Strategy report and in particular;
 - a) The net revenue expenditure requirement of £156.921m
 - b) A council tax requirement of £120.180m
 - c) The revenue growth proposals as outlined in paragraphs 51 to 53

- d) The 2025/26 revenue savings proposals as outlined in annex 2
- e) The fees and charges proposals as outlined in annex 3
- f) The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 25/26 budget set out in annex 5
- g) The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) proposals outlined from paragraph 141
- h) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy set out in annex 7
- ii. Notes that the effect of approving the income and expenditure proposals included in the recommendations would result in a 4.99% increase in the City of York Council element of the council tax, 2% of which would relate to the social care precept.

Reason: To ensure a legally balanced budget is set

Capital Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30

15. Executive recommends that Council approves the budget proposals outlined in the Capital Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30 and in particular:
- i. Agree to the revised capital programme of **£385.383m** that reflects a net overall increase of **£60.947m** (as set out in table 2 and in Annex 1). Key elements of this include:
 - a) New schemes funded by prudential borrowing totalling £8.150m as set out in table 3;
 - b) Extension of prudential borrowing funded Rolling Programme schemes totalling £24.712m as set out in table 4;
 - c) Extension of externally funded Rolling Programme schemes totalling £11.935m as set out in table 5;
 - d) An increase in HRA funded schemes totalling £16.150m funded from a combination HRA balances/capital receipts as set out in table 6;
 - ii. Note the total increase in Council borrowing as a result of new schemes being recommended for approval is £32.862m the details of which are considered within this report and the financial strategy report
 - iii. Approve the full restated programme as summarised in Annex 2 totalling **£385.383m** covering financial years 2025/26 to 2029/30 as set out in table 12 and Annex 2

Reason: In accordance with the statutory requirement to set a capital budget for the forthcoming financial year.

Capital and Investment Strategy

16. Executive recommends that Council:

- i. Approve the Capital and Investment Strategy at Annex A
Reason: To meet the statutory obligation to comply with the Prudential Code 2017

Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators

17. Executive recommends that Council approve;

- i. The treasury management strategy for 2025/26 including the annual investment strategy and the minimum revenue provision policy statement;
- ii. The prudential indicators for 2025/26 to 2029/30 in the main body of the report;
- iii. The specified and non-specified investments schedule (annex B)
- iv. The scheme of delegation and the role of the section 151 officer (annex D)

Reason: To enable the continued effective operation of the treasury management function and ensure that all council borrowing is prudent, affordable and sustainable.

Background

18. On 21 January the Executive met to consider the revenue and capital budgets and the Treasury Management Strategy. The following reports, copies of which Members have previously received, were considered.

- i) Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30
- ii) Capital Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30
- iii) Capital Financing and Investment Strategy
- iv) Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators 2025/26 to 2029/30.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

19. Options open to the Council are to approve Executive's recommendations or to approve any amendments that may be moved by other Members of Council.

Organisational Impact and Implications

20. Implications in respect of setting the budget are contained in the Executive reports. Member's attention is drawn in particular to the legal advice of the Council's Monitoring Officer and the statutory advice of the Section 151 officer as set out in the Financial Strategy report and repeated in the following sections.

Legal

21. The council is required to set a council tax for 2025/26 before 11 March 2025. The decision to set the level of council tax is reserved to Council and cannot be taken by Executive or delegated to officers, although Executive has to recommend a budget to Council. These comments are intended to apply to both the Executive meeting and the subsequent Council meeting.
22. There is no statutory requirement to set a detailed budget in any particular form. They are produced as an important tool to assist the Council in setting the council tax precept and managing its finances effectively with a view to balancing its budget.
23. Before determining the level of the tax, the Council must estimate its proposed revenue expenditure, taking into account amounts required by way of contingency, any need to raise reserves and any other amounts which the Council is legally required to transfer between funds. It must also estimate its anticipated income, any relevant transfer between funds and any proposed use of reserves. It must then calculate the difference between the two which is the council tax requirement.
24. The Council's Chief Financial Officer (under s151 Local Government Act 1972) is required to report to the Council on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations, and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. The Council must have regard to the report when making decisions about the calculations in connection with which it is made. The Chief Financial Officer has a statutory duty under section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to issue a written report if she

considers that a decision taken by the Council would be unlawful and likely to cause a financial deficiency.

25. In reaching decisions on these matters, Members are bound by the general principles of administrative law. Lawful discretions must not be abused or fettered and all relevant considerations must be taken into account. No irrelevant considerations may be taken into account, and any decision made must be one which only a reasonable authority, properly directing itself, could have reached. Members must also balance the interests of service users against those who contribute to the Council's finances. The resources available to the Council must be deployed to their best advantage. Members should also be conscious that, whilst Council is responsible for setting the budget envelope for the relevant financial year, Executive is responsible for individual spending decisions within that budget envelope.
26. Members must also bear in mind the Council's other statutory duties to have regard to certain matters when making decisions. The report identifies proposals which, if approved, may potentially have an impact on children, older adults and persons with disabilities all of which groups are statutorily protected under the Equalities Act 2010. In making their decision, Members must have due regard to their public sector equality duty and the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Members must also take into consideration any crime and disorder implications of the decision. A failure to follow these principles could open the Council to judicial review.
27. There is legal authority for the proposition that if there is discretion left as to how budget envelope is spent, or if the envelope itself can be changed (virement etc) any relevant statutory duties (such as the PSED) can be discharged when spending decisions within the envelope are taken. The early consideration of potential equalities impact on service changes is however advised as set out in this report.
28. Members have a fiduciary duty to the council tax payers and others in the local authority's area. This means that members must behave responsibly in agreeing the budget. Members have no authority to make anything other than a balanced budget.
29. Among the relevant considerations which Members must take into account in reaching their decisions are the views of business

ratepayers and the advice of officers. The duty to consult representatives of non-domestic ratepayers on the Council's expenditure plans is contained in Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

30. In considering the advice of officers, and the weight to be attached to that advice, Members should have regard to the personal duties placed upon the s151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer. The Council may take decisions which are at variance with their advice, providing there are reasonable grounds to do so. However, Members may expose themselves to risk if they disregard clearly expressed advice, for example as to the level of provision required for contingencies, bad debts, and future liabilities. In addition, if Members wish to reinstate savings recommended by the Chief Finance Officer in order to balance the budget, they must find equivalent savings elsewhere.
31. The Chief Finance Officer is required by Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (as amended) to ensure that the council's budgeting, financial management, and accounting practices meet relevant statutory and professional requirements. This is in addition subject to the requirements set out above.
32. Members must also have regard to, and be aware of, the wider duties placed upon the council by various statutes governing the conduct of its financial affairs. These include the distinction between revenue and capital expenditure and the requirement to set prudential indicators in line with capital investment plans that are prudent, affordable and sustainable.
33. Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 makes it a criminal offence for any Member with arrears of council tax which have been outstanding for two months or more to attend any meeting at which a decision affecting the budget is to be made, unless the Member concerned declares at the outset of the meeting that he or she is in arrears and will not be voting on the decision for that reason. The Member concerned must not vote but may speak. The application of Section 106 of the 1992 Act is very wide and Members should be aware that the responsibility for ensuring that they act within the law at all times rests solely with the individual Member concerned.
34. If a referendum is held after the beginning of the relevant financial year, the higher rate of council tax will be payable unless and until it

is overturned by a 'no' vote in the referendum. It must also provide "substitute calculations" which need to be presented to Council setting out what the alternative budget would be. This means that that if a party proposes a council tax above the referendum limit they must also produce "substitute calculations" within the referendum limit, to be used in the event that the referendum would reject the increase. In the event that a referendum rejects the increase, the billing authority would be able to issue new bills, offer refunds at the end of the year or allow credits against liability the following year, although individual council taxpayers would be entitled to a refund on demand.

Statutory Advice from the s151 Officer

Introduction

35. The Local Government Act 2003 places responsibilities upon the council's Chief Finance Officer to advise the council on the adequacy of its reserves and the robustness of the budget proposals including the estimates contained in this document. This section also addresses the key risks facing the council in relation to current and future budget provision. The following paragraphs outline my assessment of the budget proposals outlined in this report, including reserves and general robustness of the process. Section 25 (2) of the 2003 Act requires the council to have regard to this assessment in approving the annual budget and setting the council tax.

Robustness of proposals and process

36. The preparation of a budget relies on estimates, which are made at a point in time, and clearly there are a number of factors that can influence actual expenditure throughout the year. However, there are processes in place to ensure that assurance can be given that this budget has been constructed using the best available information and assumptions at the time of preparation. These include:
- regular budget monitoring to ensure known pressures are reflected
 - involvement of directorate management teams in development of the proposals
 - regular scrutiny of the proposals by Executive members.
37. Considerable reliance is also placed on budget managers having proper arrangements in place to identify issues early, project the

likely demand for services, and consider value for money and efficiency.

38. In order to provide assurances that the budget estimates are robust the following factors have been considered:
- overall funding available including specific grants and other funding available from central government, along with locally raised income from council tax and business rates,
 - progress made in delivering 2024/25 savings
 - whether the budget decisions outlined in this report are achievable
 - the current and anticipated budget pressures arising from services such as social care
 - the forecast impact of inflation and pay awards
 - the financial sustainability of the council and the effectiveness of the financial management arrangements in place
 - the affordability and sustainability of the capital investment plans outlined in the capital programme report elsewhere on this agenda and the revenue impact of this expenditure
39. In addition, the council has a demonstrable track record of delivering budget savings and has sound financial management procedures in place. This has been recognised by favourable audit reports in respect of financial management and processes and overall, the financial planning process is sound and effective.
40. A range of pressures have been identified and built into the budget presented in this report, including a contingency sum of £500k as in previous years.

Risks

41. The report outlines the key risks to the 2025/26 budget, and these are considered further in the following paragraphs.
42. Continued increasing costs across all areas of spend remains an area of concern. Whilst inflation levels have started to settle, this only means that prices are not increasing as much – they remain at the previously high levels. Given the Councils significant capital programme, rising costs are to be expected and may result in some schemes being delayed or costing more than estimated and there are already some emerging issues and concerns over the rising costs of some major schemes

43. Therefore, the number of complex capital schemes currently being undertaken remains a key risk for the Council. Where there is a gap between the initial proposal and the start of works, there is an even greater risk that costs will increase from those originally estimated. Should schemes not progress to full completion there remains a risk that costs currently assumed to be capable of being capitalised must be written off to revenue. There are also increased borrowing levels resulting in increased revenue costs of debt in coming years. This is highlighted in the medium term plan figures.
44. A further key risk in relation to the capital programme is that some major capital projects may have short/medium term cash flow impacts. For example, York Central will result in additional business rates but will require short term borrowing prior to income being received to cover the costs. As identified in previous budget reports, the Venture Fund will be used to support early years cash flow deficits on major strategic capital projects but given the current economic outlook and higher than previously expected interest rates, this borrowing will be more expensive than previously expected.
45. The current pressures being experienced within both adults and children's services remain of concern and the ongoing action being taken will need to continue and be given a high priority. Specific attention is drawn to the national picture regarding these services, which are recognised as being under increased pressure. Whilst this council has invested in these services in recent years, the risks remain, and it is essential the council continues to make adequate budgetary growth provision to deal with the significant cost pressures these services are experiencing, along with savings programmes to mitigate pressures.
46. The savings proposed rely on generating additional income, especially from car parking charges. The figures proposed are achievable and an allowance has been made for reduced activity. However, there is a risk that activity drops off more than assumed which would result in the savings not being achieved. In addition, any future proposals to reduce the provision of Council car parks would have a higher financial impact in light of the increased charges.
47. Clearly, there are risks in the achievement of some of the proposed savings and, in assessing this risk, I cannot guarantee that every single proposal will be achieved. I do however consider the overall package to be prudent. As outlined earlier, processes are in place

to ensure the robustness of the proposed savings. A risk assessment of the individual savings proposals has been conducted and discussed with senior management. Where savings are not delivered, services are fully aware of the need to find compensating savings.

48. The Council is also about to embark on a significant programme of transformation which will require all parts of the Council to contribute towards working differently. Any change can be unsettling, and the process of change itself can bring financial risks. It will be vital to have a sound governance structure so that the investment being made in transformation delivers lasting change and ongoing budget savings.
49. Finally, there remains again the potential for significant changes to the system of local government finance in coming years. The Government published the provisional settlement on 18 December 2024. It is a one year settlement pending the 2025 Spending Review.
50. Changes in funding as a result of the Spending Review funding could be significant and make forecasting beyond 2025/26 virtually impossible. The government originally launched the Fair Funding Review in 2016 and the review has been postponed numerous times. This policy is likely to change the needs assessments of local authorities and therefore the distribution of funding between different councils, adding to the uncertainty in the years ahead.

Reserves

51. CIPFA guidance states that, in order to assess the adequacy of reserves when setting the budget, chief finance officers should take account of the strategic, operational and financial risks facing the authority and that the many factors involved when considering appropriate levels of reserves can only be assessed properly at a local level.
52. Determining the appropriate levels of balances is therefore a professional judgement based on local circumstances including the overall budget size, risks, robustness of budgets, major initiatives being undertaken, budget assumptions and other earmarked reserves and provisions. Based on the range of factors and risks outlined in this report it is my view that the general reserve should be a figure of £7.4m.

53. Furthermore, part of the risk management process involves taking appropriate action to mitigate or remove risks, where this is possible. This in turn may lead to a lower level of reserves being required, and it would be appropriate to consider reducing the level of balances held where appropriate action to mitigate or remove risks has been successfully undertaken. As part of the year end process, a review is undertaken and any balances that are no longer required, or that can be reduced due to action taken to reduce or mitigate the relevant risks, will be reported to Executive as part of the year end outturn report.
54. The proposed 2025/26 budget does not use the general reserve to balance and therefore reserves remain sufficient to deal with any further risks.

Summary

55. The uncertainty over recent years, following the pandemic, cost of living crisis and inflationary pressures, along with increasing demand for our services, means financial planning needs to be robust.
56. Additional funding allocated in the provisional settlement is welcome but is insufficient to deal with the increased complexity and demand being seen within all council services, especially social care.
57. Identifying and subsequently delivering recurring budget savings remains the key to balancing the financial strategy. The medium term outlook demonstrates the need to future savings to be delivered and members are reminded that the settlement for 2025/26 is again a one year settlement pending the Spending Review. No formal confirmation or other guarantees have been received on funding allocations beyond 2025/26.
58. For future budget planning, further action will be needed to continue to focus resources on the highest priority services to reduce demand, as well as creating capacity to make investment in key front line services and essential capital investment. Therefore, the major financial challenge facing the council in coming years remains the need to secure further savings and for cost pressures, particularly those resulting from the pandemic, to be managed effectively. Given the current financial pressures referred to in previous paragraphs there will need to be continued careful monitoring of the achievement of the savings outlined in this report.

59. Considering all the factors and risks outlined in this report, I continue to advise against the use of one off reserves, or any other one off funding, to delay the need to identify and deliver recurring savings without a clear strategy for how we will tackle the known financial challenges. Whilst Council is only required, statutorily, to balance the budget for the year ahead, not acting now could result in unmanageable savings requirements in future years and I would caution Council against this.
60. I have given careful consideration to the proposals outlined in all the budget reports on this agenda and particularly the risks associated with the proposals. Prudent and realistic assumptions have been made and the financial implications of known pressures have been included. With the savings identified in this report, I am satisfied that this report represents a robust budget on which the council can rely in setting council tax.
61. I am aware that as with all budgets there is the potential for amendments to be proposed/agreed which could change the overall package of proposals. In that respect, I would highlight that I would amend/add to my statement if a decision was proposed that lead to the council's reserves falling below the minimum level (assuming the current budget comes in line with budget). In addition, any other amendments I would consider against the scale of the overall budget and depending upon the extent of the amendment I may revise my statement.

Risks and Mitigations

62. An assessment of risks is completed as part of the annual budget setting exercise and further details are included in annex 6 of the Executive report. These risks are managed effectively through regular reporting and corrective action being taken where necessary and appropriate.
63. As the Council's Section 151 Officer, the Director of Finance has a statutory responsibility for ensuring that the Council makes arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires a report to all Council members to be made by the s151 officer, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, if there is or is likely to be an unbalanced budget.

Wards Impacted

64. All

Contact details

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

Author

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Name: | Debbie Mitchell |
| Job Title: | Director of Finance |
| Service Area: | Finance |
| Report approved: | Yes |
| Date: | 17/02/2025 |

Background papers

Background Papers:

Reports to Executive meeting held on 21 January 2025

- Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30,
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s181127/Executive%20Financial%20Strategy.pdf>
- Capital and Investment Strategy,
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s181087/Capital%20Strategy%20Executive%20Report.pdf>
- Capital Budget 2025/26 to 2029/30,
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s181116/Capital%20Budget%20Jan%202025.pdf>
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 to 2029/30,
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s181089/Treasury%20Management%20Strategy%202025-26.pdf>

Annexes: None

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| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Meeting: | Council |
| Meeting date: | 27 February 2025 |
| Report of: | Director of Finance |
| Portfolio of: | Cllr Katie Lomas, Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Equalities and Inclusion |

Decision Report: Council Tax Resolution 2025/26

Subject of Report

1. This report asks Members to approve the rate of council tax for 2025/26. Although the legal requirement is that the Council must have set a balanced budget and the council tax charge by 11 March it is important that council tax rates are approved at this meeting to allow sufficient time to produce and post council tax bills and meet all statutory deadlines.
2. This report sets out the resolution based on the assumption that the budget proposals recommended by Executive on 21 January 2025 are approved.
3. Members are reminded that the individual council tax bill is comprised of four elements - the amount levied for City of York Council, the amount precepted by the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner, the Mayoral General Precept (including Fire and Rescue Services) and, for properties in a parished area of the city, the amount precepted by the individual Town or Parish Council.
4. Any authority proposing an excessive increase in council tax must hold a local referendum and obtain a 'yes' vote before implementing the increase. An authority proposing an excessive increase must also make substitute calculations, based on a non-excessive council tax level. This is implemented if the excessive increase is rejected in the referendum.
5. In 2025/26, local authorities with social care responsibilities (county and unitary authorities) will have a total threshold of 5% or more.

Of this, 2% is available for adult social care and 3% for general spending. District councils have a threshold of 3% or £5.00 on a band D bill; and for Police and Crime Commissioners, the threshold is £14 on a band D bill. No thresholds were applied to parish and town councils or to mayoral combined authorities.

6. Therefore, City of York Council may charge a maximum of 2% social care precept in 2025/26, in addition to the 3% for general spending. The additional social care precept must be used to fund adult social care.

Financial Strategy Implications

7. Alongside the requirement to set a balanced budget as part of the financial strategy, the Council must also set a Council Tax charge for the forthcoming year.

Recommendation and Reasons

8. Council is recommended to resolve as follows:
It be noted that on 2 December 2024 the Chief Finance Officer, under her delegated authority, calculated the council tax base for the year 2025/26:
 - (a) for the **whole Council area** as 69,426.10 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)]; and
 - (b) for those dwellings in those parts of its area to which a **Parish** precept relates as in column 1 in the attached Schedule A.
9. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2025/26 (excluding Parish precepts) is £120,180,050.
10. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2025/26 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £565,383,463 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

- (b) £444,083,969 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £121,299,494 being the amount by which the aggregate at 9(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 9(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. [Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act].
 - (d) £1,747.17 being the amount at 9(c) above [Item R], all divided by Item T (7(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £1,119,444 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Schedule A).
 - (f) £1,731.05 being the amount at 9(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 9(e) above by Item T (7(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
11. To note that the Mayoral Combined Authority (including Fire and Rescue Services) and the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner has issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the tables below.
 12. That the Council, in accordance with sections 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below, and

at Schedule B for Parished areas, as the amounts of council tax for 2025/26 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

City of York Council

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 1,154.03 | 1,346.37 | 1,538.71 | 1,731.05 | 2,115.73 | 2,500.41 | 2,885.08 | 3,462.10 |

Mayoral Police & Crime Commissioner

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 213.91 | 249.56 | 285.21 | 320.86 | 392.16 | 463.46 | 534.77 | 641.72 |

Mayoral General (including Fire and Rescue)

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 71.35 | 83.24 | 95.13 | 107.02 | 130.80 | 154.58 | 178.37 | 214.04 |

Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements (excluding Parished Areas)

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 1,439.29 | 1,679.17 | 1,919.05 | 2,158.93 | 2,638.69 | 3,118.45 | 3,598.22 | 4,317.86 |

13. Determine that the Council's basic amount of council tax for 2025/26 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB of the Act. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2025/26 is excessive and that the billing authority is not

required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Background

14. The Council's net revenue budget and capital programme were recommended by the 21 January 2025 Executive for approval by Council. Details appear earlier on this agenda.
15. The council tax levels to be proposed will include the precepts received from the parish councils, the North Yorkshire Police Authority and the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. Members are reminded that the Council must word the resolution in precise language, as directed by legislation.

Parishes

16. The total parish funding has increased by £122,042 (11.84%) to £1,152,852 from £1,030,810 in 2024/25. This figure includes grants totalling £33,408 provided by the council to parishes to protect against the effects of the localised council tax support scheme. Therefore, the total amount of council tax to be levied by parishes in 2025/26 is £1,119,444. The percentage increases vary from 0.62% to 37.04, with an average increase overall of 10.13%. 5 parishes have frozen their funding. The individual precepts are only charged to the residents in that parish. The total rise in parish precepts over the last three years has been £255k (28%).

Mayoral Combined Authority

17. From 1st April 2025 responsibility for both police and fire and rescue services in North Yorkshire has transferred to the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.
18. The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority has set a Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner precept at £22,276,058. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £320.86 in 2025/26, an increase of £14 (4.56%).
19. The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority has set a Mayoral General Precept (including Fire and Rescue services) at £7,429,981. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £107.02. This is a new precept. However, for information the Fire and Rescue precept for 2024/25 resulted in a Band D figure of £83.02.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

20. City of York Council is currently a member of the Leeds City Region (LCR) Business Rates Pool. The pool was formed for 2021/22 and retains 50% of business rates, in line with national policy. The pool will continue to operate in 2025/26.
21. The council is projecting retained business rates income in 2025/26 of £36.241m, which is an increase of £0.9m compared to 2024/25.

Consultation Analysis

22. Not applicable

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

23. Not applicable

Organisational Impact and Implications

24. The implications have been set out in the Financial Strategy report, earlier on this agenda.

Risks and Mitigations

25. Not applicable

Wards Impacted

26. All

Contact details

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

Author

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|-------------------------|------------|
| Report approved: | Yes |
| Date: | 17/02/2025 |

Background papers

Report of the Chief Finance Officer, Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30; Executive, 21st January 2025,
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s181127/Executive%20Financial%20Strategy.pdf>

Annexes

- Schedule A – 2025/26 Basic City of York Council and Parish element of Council Tax by parish area
- Schedule B - Total aggregate Council Tax (City of York Council, Police, Fire and Parish) by parish area
- Schedule C - Precepting information by parish area

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SCHEDULE A

Parts of the Council's Area

| | 1. Council Tax Base | 2. Basic Amount of Tax £ | 3. Valuation Bands | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | | A £ | B £ | C £ | D £ | E £ | F £ | G £ | H £ |
| Acaster Malbis Parish Council | 345.82 | 1,748.36 | 1,165.57 | 1,359.83 | 1,554.10 | 1,748.36 | 2,136.89 | 2,525.41 | 2,913.93 | 3,496.72 |
| Askham Bryan Parish Council | 206.39 | 1,784.70 | 1,189.80 | 1,388.10 | 1,586.40 | 1,784.70 | 2,181.30 | 2,577.90 | 2,974.50 | 3,569.40 |
| Askham Richard Parish Council | 95.74 | 1,790.11 | 1,193.40 | 1,392.31 | 1,591.21 | 1,790.11 | 2,187.91 | 2,585.72 | 2,983.51 | 3,580.22 |
| Bishopthorpe Parish Council | 1,295.42 | 1,758.14 | 1,172.09 | 1,367.44 | 1,562.79 | 1,758.14 | 2,148.84 | 2,539.54 | 2,930.23 | 3,516.28 |
| Clifton Without Parish Council | 2,074.10 | 1,751.19 | 1,167.46 | 1,362.03 | 1,556.61 | 1,751.19 | 2,140.35 | 2,529.50 | 2,918.65 | 3,502.38 |
| Copmanthorpe Parish Council | 1,699.20 | 1,755.30 | 1,170.20 | 1,365.23 | 1,560.27 | 1,755.30 | 2,145.37 | 2,535.44 | 2,925.50 | 3,510.60 |
| Deighton Parish Council | 136.92 | 1,764.54 | 1,176.36 | 1,372.42 | 1,568.48 | 1,764.54 | 2,156.66 | 2,548.78 | 2,940.90 | 3,529.08 |
| Dunnington Parish Council | 1,363.09 | 1,765.45 | 1,176.96 | 1,373.13 | 1,569.29 | 1,765.45 | 2,157.77 | 2,550.10 | 2,942.41 | 3,530.90 |
| Earswick Parish Council | 435.65 | 1,796.72 | 1,197.81 | 1,397.45 | 1,597.08 | 1,796.72 | 2,195.99 | 2,595.27 | 2,994.53 | 3,593.44 |
| Elvington Parish Council | 491.93 | 1,759.29 | 1,172.86 | 1,368.33 | 1,563.81 | 1,759.29 | 2,150.25 | 2,541.20 | 2,932.15 | 3,518.58 |
| Fulford Parish Council | 1,271.81 | 1,778.52 | 1,185.68 | 1,383.29 | 1,580.91 | 1,778.52 | 2,173.75 | 2,568.98 | 2,964.20 | 3,557.04 |
| Haxby Town Council | 3,251.18 | 1,787.00 | 1,191.33 | 1,389.89 | 1,588.44 | 1,787.00 | 2,184.11 | 2,581.23 | 2,978.33 | 3,574.00 |
| Heslington Parish Council | 369.35 | 1,787.44 | 1,191.62 | 1,390.23 | 1,588.83 | 1,787.44 | 2,184.65 | 2,581.86 | 2,979.06 | 3,574.88 |
| Hessay Parish Council | 118.06 | 1,768.35 | 1,178.90 | 1,375.38 | 1,571.87 | 1,768.35 | 2,161.32 | 2,554.29 | 2,947.25 | 3,536.70 |
| Heworth Parish Council | 837.13 | 1,756.44 | 1,170.96 | 1,366.12 | 1,561.28 | 1,756.44 | 2,146.76 | 2,537.08 | 2,927.40 | 3,512.88 |
| Holtby Parish Council | 103.13 | 1,748.01 | 1,165.34 | 1,359.56 | 1,553.79 | 1,748.01 | 2,136.46 | 2,524.91 | 2,913.35 | 3,496.02 |
| Huntington Parish Council | 3,547.86 | 1,782.42 | 1,188.28 | 1,386.32 | 1,584.37 | 1,782.42 | 2,178.52 | 2,574.61 | 2,970.70 | 3,564.84 |
| Kexby Parish Council | 103.77 | 1,771.31 | 1,180.87 | 1,377.68 | 1,574.50 | 1,771.31 | 2,164.94 | 2,558.56 | 2,952.18 | 3,542.62 |
| Murton Parish Council | 208.62 | 1,747.57 | 1,165.04 | 1,359.22 | 1,553.39 | 1,747.57 | 2,135.92 | 2,524.27 | 2,912.61 | 3,495.14 |
| Naburn Parish Council | 227.58 | 1,755.51 | 1,170.34 | 1,365.39 | 1,560.45 | 1,755.51 | 2,145.63 | 2,535.74 | 2,925.85 | 3,511.02 |
| Nether Poppleton Parish Council | 882.71 | 1,772.35 | 1,181.56 | 1,378.49 | 1,575.42 | 1,772.35 | 2,166.21 | 2,560.07 | 2,953.91 | 3,544.70 |
| New Earswick Parish Council | 819.93 | 1,762.58 | 1,175.05 | 1,370.89 | 1,566.74 | 1,762.58 | 2,154.27 | 2,545.95 | 2,937.63 | 3,525.16 |
| Osbalwick Parish Council | 1,365.31 | 1,748.04 | 1,165.36 | 1,359.58 | 1,553.81 | 1,748.04 | 2,136.50 | 2,524.95 | 2,913.40 | 3,496.08 |
| Rawcliffe Parish Council | 2,294.85 | 1,754.56 | 1,169.70 | 1,364.66 | 1,559.61 | 1,754.56 | 2,144.46 | 2,534.37 | 2,924.26 | 3,509.12 |
| Rufforth and Knapton Parish Council | 462.68 | 1,760.15 | 1,173.43 | 1,369.00 | 1,564.58 | 1,760.15 | 2,151.30 | 2,542.44 | 2,933.58 | 3,520.30 |
| Skelton Parish Council | 650.86 | 1,772.82 | 1,181.88 | 1,378.86 | 1,575.84 | 1,772.82 | 2,166.78 | 2,560.74 | 2,954.70 | 3,545.64 |
| Stockton-on-the-Forest Parish Council | 535.69 | 1,751.65 | 1,167.76 | 1,362.39 | 1,557.02 | 1,751.65 | 2,140.91 | 2,530.17 | 2,919.41 | 3,503.30 |
| Strensall with Towthorpe Parish Council | 2,122.67 | 1,755.79 | 1,170.52 | 1,365.61 | 1,560.70 | 1,755.79 | 2,145.97 | 2,536.15 | 2,926.31 | 3,511.58 |
| Upper Poppleton Parish Council | 1,029.78 | 1,774.94 | 1,183.29 | 1,380.51 | 1,577.72 | 1,774.94 | 2,169.37 | 2,563.81 | 2,958.23 | 3,549.88 |
| Wheldrake Parish Council | 859.77 | 1,777.97 | 1,185.31 | 1,382.86 | 1,580.42 | 1,777.97 | 2,173.08 | 2,568.18 | 2,963.28 | 3,555.94 |
| Wigginton Parish Council | 1,374.66 | 1,781.64 | 1,187.76 | 1,385.72 | 1,583.68 | 1,781.64 | 2,177.56 | 2,573.48 | 2,969.40 | 3,563.28 |
| | 30,581.68 | | | | | | | | | |
| All other parts of the council's area | 38,844.42 | 1,731.05 | 1,154.03 | 1,346.37 | 1,538.71 | 1,731.05 | 2,115.73 | 2,500.41 | 2,885.08 | 3,462.10 |
| | 69,426.10 | | | | | | | | | |

Note: This schedule shows the basic City of York Council + Parish element of Council Tax for each area.

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SCHEDULE B

Parts of the Council's Area

Valuation Bands

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Acaster Malbis Parish Council | 1,450.83 | 1,692.63 | 1,934.44 | 2,176.24 | 2,659.85 | 3,143.45 | 3,627.07 | 4,352.48 |
| Askham Bryan Parish Council | 1,475.06 | 1,720.90 | 1,966.74 | 2,212.58 | 2,704.26 | 3,195.94 | 3,687.64 | 4,425.16 |
| Askham Richard Parish Council | 1,478.66 | 1,725.11 | 1,971.55 | 2,217.99 | 2,710.87 | 3,203.76 | 3,696.65 | 4,435.98 |
| Bishopthorpe Parish Council | 1,457.35 | 1,700.24 | 1,943.13 | 2,186.02 | 2,671.80 | 3,157.58 | 3,643.37 | 4,372.04 |
| Clifton Without Parish Council | 1,452.72 | 1,694.83 | 1,936.95 | 2,179.07 | 2,663.31 | 3,147.54 | 3,631.79 | 4,358.14 |
| Copmanthorpe Parish Council | 1,455.46 | 1,698.03 | 1,940.61 | 2,183.18 | 2,668.33 | 3,153.48 | 3,638.64 | 4,366.36 |
| Deighton Parish Council | 1,461.62 | 1,705.22 | 1,948.82 | 2,192.42 | 2,679.62 | 3,166.82 | 3,654.04 | 4,384.84 |
| Dunnington Parish Council | 1,462.22 | 1,705.93 | 1,949.63 | 2,193.33 | 2,680.73 | 3,168.14 | 3,655.55 | 4,386.66 |
| Earswick Parish Council | 1,483.07 | 1,730.25 | 1,977.42 | 2,224.60 | 2,718.95 | 3,213.31 | 3,707.67 | 4,449.20 |
| Elvington Parish Council | 1,458.12 | 1,701.13 | 1,944.15 | 2,187.17 | 2,673.21 | 3,159.24 | 3,645.29 | 4,374.34 |
| Fulford Parish Council | 1,470.94 | 1,716.09 | 1,961.25 | 2,206.40 | 2,696.71 | 3,187.02 | 3,677.34 | 4,412.80 |
| Haxby Town Council | 1,476.59 | 1,722.69 | 1,968.78 | 2,214.88 | 2,707.07 | 3,199.27 | 3,691.47 | 4,429.76 |
| Heslington Parish Council | 1,476.88 | 1,723.03 | 1,969.17 | 2,215.32 | 2,707.61 | 3,199.90 | 3,692.20 | 4,430.64 |
| Hessay Parish Council | 1,464.16 | 1,708.18 | 1,952.21 | 2,196.23 | 2,684.28 | 3,172.33 | 3,660.39 | 4,392.46 |
| Heworth Parish Council | 1,456.22 | 1,698.92 | 1,941.62 | 2,184.32 | 2,669.72 | 3,155.12 | 3,640.54 | 4,368.64 |
| Holtby Parish Council | 1,450.60 | 1,692.36 | 1,934.13 | 2,175.89 | 2,659.42 | 3,142.95 | 3,626.49 | 4,351.78 |
| Huntington Parish Council | 1,473.54 | 1,719.12 | 1,964.71 | 2,210.30 | 2,701.48 | 3,192.65 | 3,683.84 | 4,420.60 |
| Kexby Parish Council | 1,466.13 | 1,710.48 | 1,954.84 | 2,199.19 | 2,687.90 | 3,176.60 | 3,665.32 | 4,398.38 |
| Murton Parish Council | 1,450.30 | 1,692.02 | 1,933.73 | 2,175.45 | 2,658.88 | 3,142.31 | 3,625.75 | 4,350.90 |
| Naburn Parish Council | 1,455.60 | 1,698.19 | 1,940.79 | 2,183.39 | 2,668.59 | 3,153.78 | 3,638.99 | 4,366.78 |
| Nether Poppleton Parish Council | 1,466.82 | 1,711.29 | 1,955.76 | 2,200.23 | 2,689.17 | 3,178.11 | 3,667.05 | 4,400.46 |
| New Earswick Parish Council | 1,460.31 | 1,703.69 | 1,947.08 | 2,190.46 | 2,677.23 | 3,163.99 | 3,650.77 | 4,380.92 |
| Osballdwick Parish Council | 1,450.62 | 1,692.38 | 1,934.15 | 2,175.92 | 2,659.46 | 3,142.99 | 3,626.54 | 4,351.84 |
| Rawcliffe Parish Council | 1,454.96 | 1,697.46 | 1,939.95 | 2,182.44 | 2,667.42 | 3,152.41 | 3,637.40 | 4,364.88 |
| Rufforth and Knapton Parish Council | 1,458.69 | 1,701.80 | 1,944.92 | 2,188.03 | 2,674.26 | 3,160.48 | 3,646.72 | 4,376.06 |
| Skelton Parish Council | 1,467.14 | 1,711.66 | 1,956.18 | 2,200.70 | 2,689.74 | 3,178.78 | 3,667.84 | 4,401.40 |
| Stockton-on-the-Forest Parish Council | 1,453.02 | 1,695.19 | 1,937.36 | 2,179.53 | 2,663.87 | 3,148.21 | 3,632.55 | 4,359.06 |
| Strensall with Towthorpe Parish Council | 1,455.78 | 1,698.41 | 1,941.04 | 2,183.67 | 2,668.93 | 3,154.19 | 3,639.45 | 4,367.34 |
| Upper Poppleton Parish Council | 1,468.55 | 1,713.31 | 1,958.06 | 2,202.82 | 2,692.33 | 3,181.85 | 3,671.37 | 4,405.64 |
| Wheldrake Parish Council | 1,470.57 | 1,715.66 | 1,960.76 | 2,205.85 | 2,696.04 | 3,186.22 | 3,676.42 | 4,411.70 |
| Wigginton Parish Council | 1,473.02 | 1,718.52 | 1,964.02 | 2,209.52 | 2,700.52 | 3,191.52 | 3,682.54 | 4,419.04 |
| All other parts of the council's area | 1,439.29 | 1,679.17 | 1,919.05 | 2,158.93 | 2,638.69 | 3,118.45 | 3,598.22 | 4,317.86 |

Note: This schedule shows the total aggregate Council Tax (City of York Council, Police, Fire and Parish) for each area.

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Schedule C

Parts of the Council's Area

| | Council Tax Base | Precept Value £ | Support Grant £ | Total Funding Value £ | Basic Band D £ | % Increase in Total Funding |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Acaster Malbis Parish Council | 345.8 | 5,987.00 | 181.00 | 6,168.00 | 17.31 | 0.0% |
| Askham Bryan Parish Council | 206.4 | 11,073.00 | 253.00 | 11,326.00 | 53.65 | 1.8% |
| Askham Richard Parish Council | 95.7 | 5,655.00 | 45.00 | 5,700.00 | 59.06 | 25.0% |
| Bishopthorpe Parish Council | 1,295.4 | 35,091.00 | 909.00 | 36,000.00 | 27.09 | 2.9% |
| Clifton Without Parish Council | 2,074.1 | 41,765.00 | 1,363.00 | 43,128.00 | 20.14 | 20.0% |
| Copmanthorpe Parish Council | 1,699.2 | 41,208.00 | 692.00 | 41,900.00 | 24.25 | 7.6% |
| Deighton Parish Council | 136.9 | 4,586.00 | 85.00 | 4,671.00 | 33.49 | 17.2% |
| Dunnington Parish Council | 1,363.1 | 46,892.00 | 1,122.00 | 48,014.00 | 34.40 | 12.7% |
| Earswick Parish Council | 435.7 | 28,607.00 | 455.00 | 29,062.00 | 65.67 | 1.0% |
| Elvington Parish Council | 491.9 | 13,894.00 | 418.00 | 14,312.00 | 28.24 | 2.3% |
| Fulford Parish Council | 1,271.8 | 60,372.00 | 2,668.00 | 63,040.00 | 47.47 | 31.2% |
| Haxby Town Council | 3,251.2 | 181,895.00 | 4,204.00 | 186,099.00 | 55.95 | 18.2% |
| Heslington Parish Council | 369.4 | 20,826.00 | 543.00 | 21,369.00 | 56.39 | 11.5% |
| Hessay Parish Council | 118.1 | 4,404.00 | 96.00 | 4,500.00 | 37.30 | 7.1% |
| Heworth Parish Council | 837.1 | 21,252.00 | 563.00 | 21,815.00 | 25.39 | 0.0% |
| Holtby Parish Council | 103.1 | 1,749.00 | 15.00 | 1,764.00 | 16.96 | 0.0% |
| Huntington Parish Council | 3,547.9 | 182,268.00 | 6,797.00 | 189,065.00 | 51.37 | 8.9% |
| Kexby Parish Council | 103.8 | 4,178.00 | 22.00 | 4,200.00 | 40.26 | 0.0% |
| Murton Parish Council | 208.6 | 3,446.00 | 54.00 | 3,500.00 | 16.52 | 16.7% |
| Naburn Parish Council | 227.6 | 5,566.00 | 134.00 | 5,700.00 | 24.46 | 0.6% |
| Nether Poppleton Parish Council | 882.7 | 36,458.00 | 542.00 | 37,000.00 | 41.30 | 37.0% |
| New Earswick Parish Council | 819.9 | 25,856.00 | 4,144.00 | 30,000.00 | 31.53 | 7.1% |
| Osballdwick Parish Council | 1,365.3 | 23,198.00 | 1,057.00 | 24,255.00 | 16.99 | 10.0% |
| Rawcliffe Parish Council | 2,294.9 | 53,955.00 | 1,045.00 | 55,000.00 | 23.51 | 25.0% |
| Rufforth and Knapton Parish Council | 462.7 | 13,462.00 | 198.00 | 13,660.00 | 29.10 | 7.8% |
| Skelton Parish Council | 650.9 | 27,184.00 | 1,177.00 | 28,361.00 | 41.77 | 3.5% |
| Stockton-on-the-Forest Parish Council | 535.7 | 11,033.00 | 336.00 | 11,369.00 | 20.60 | 6.0% |
| Strensall with Towthorpe Parish Council | 2,122.7 | 52,505.00 | 1,495.00 | 54,000.00 | 24.74 | 0.0% |
| Upper Poppleton Parish Council | 1,029.8 | 45,199.00 | 801.00 | 46,000.00 | 43.89 | 27.8% |
| Wheldrake Parish Council | 859.8 | 40,343.00 | 531.00 | 40,874.00 | 46.92 | 2.2% |
| Wigginton Parish Council | 1,374.7 | 69,537.00 | 1,463.00 | 71,000.00 | 50.59 | 2.9% |

Note: This schedule shows precepting information for each parish area.

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| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Meeting: | Budget Council |
| Meeting date: | 27 th February 2025 |
| Report of: | Director of Governance |
| Portfolio of: | Cllr Katie Lomas. Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion. |

Decision Report: Pay Policy Statement 2025 - 26

Pay Policy Statement and Transparency Information

1. The purpose of the report is to present for approval the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2025-2026.
2. In addition, to provide the information required under The Local Authorities (Data Transparency) Code 2015.

Pros and Cons

4. The Council is required to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement annually.

Policy Basis for Decision

5. To comply with the statutory guidance issued under Section 40 of the Localism Act 2011. Approval of the Pay Policy Statement is required by full Council.

Recommendation and Reasons

6. For the Council to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2025 - 2026

Reason: In order to fulfil the requirements of Section 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011 for the Council to produce and publish an annual policy statement that covers a number of matters concerning the pay of the Council's senior staff, principally Chief Officers and relationships with the pay of the rest of the workforce.

Background

7. Section 38 – 43 of the Localism Act 2011 introduced a requirement for the Council to produce and publish an annual policy statement that covers a number of matters concerning the pay of the Council's senior staff, principally Chief Officers, and relationships with the pay of the rest of the workforce.
8. The Pay Policy Statement has been produced following the requirements of the Act and guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities. It has to be published before 31 March each year.
9. The Council is continually looking at how it can improve the information it provides, building on the changes made in 2022 to consolidate the Pay Policy Statement and additional reports for organisation and senior salary information required by The Local Authorities (Data Transparency) Code 2015. This format aims to provide improved transparency, consistency and clear presentation of data which can easily be accessed by the public.

Consultation Analysis

10. Approval of the Pay Policy Statement for 2025-26 is by full Council, consultation with other management bodies is not required.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

11. Whist Members have the option to approve or not approve the report the report merely provides factual information required by the Act and Code.

12. It should be noted that apprentices have been excluded from the calculation for the pay multiple in the statement as they are employed on training contracts and paid outside of the Council's grading structures. School staff are also excluded from this statement.
13. The Council is a Living Wage employer and follows the wage level set by the Living Wage Foundation for 'Outside London'. The Council will apply the new 2025 -26 rate of £12.60 per hour from 1st April 2025. The new rate is equivalent to an annual salary of £24,308 per annum. For the majority of staff in the Council their basic pay will be above the Living Wage rate but the Council's Living Wage supplement is in place if needed, to bridge any gap between basic pay and the Living Wage rate.
14. The Council is required to publish its pay multiple (the ratio between the highest paid base salary in the Council and the median salary) as part of the Pay Policy Statement. The ratio is based on the salary of the highest paid permanent role: that of the Chief Operating Officer. The median average has been used for calculating the pay multiple from pay data taken on 3rd January 2025.
15. The current pay multiple is 5.003:1.
16. The Council changed its pay arrangements for apprentices following the removal of the National Minimum Wage age category for those aged 21 to 23 in 2024. This is referenced in the Apprenticeship Pay section of the Pay Policy Statement. All apprentices in year 2 or beyond of their training now receive the National Living Wage rate, (the highest statutory rate), for those aged 21 and over.
17. The reporting of the number staff with remuneration over £50,000 in £5,000 brackets has this year been based on total remuneration. This is a change from previous years where producing total remuneration data was not available for this report. The report provides a count of staff in the respective £5,000 brackets in accordance with the mandatory requirements for reporting.

Organisational Impact and Implications

18. **Financial** - There are no financial implications.

19. **Human Resources (HR)** – There are no human resources implications.
20. **Legal** – The Pay Policy Statement meets the requirements of the Localism Act and also meets the requirements of guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which the authority is required to have regard under Section 40 of the Act.
21. **Procurement** – There are no procurement implications.
22. **Health and Wellbeing** – An approach to council pay which aims to support staff on lower incomes through the real living wage will have positive health and wellbeing impact on the public's health, as will a transparent and cautious approach to the 'pay multiple', which is in line with reducing inequalities in the city and our goals in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
23. **Environment and Climate action** – There are no implications as there is no policy change.
24. **Affordability** - If the Living Wage is to continue then this report will have a positive effect on those employees on a lower income.
25. **Equalities and Human Rights** - The Council recognises, and needs to take into account its Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it in the exercise of a public authority's functions). The information provided in this report is required by the stated Act and Code. However, further information on equalities in pay can be seen in the Council's Gender Pay Gap reports published annually. [CYC Gender Pay Gap - Datasets - York Open Data](#)
26. **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 GDPR. 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 of 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. As there is no personal data, special categories of personal data or criminal offence data being processed to inform the decision in this report, there is no requirement to complete a DPIA for it. This is evidenced by completion of DPIA screening questions. However, there will need to be consideration and completion of DPIAs where required, within the work required to implement the approved decision(s) from this report.

27. **Communications** – The Council’s Pay Policy Statements and Transparency information is published on the Council’s website at: <https://data.yorkopendata.org/group/transparency> This year’s information will be published following approval by Full Council.
28. **Economy** - Whilst there are no direct economy implications relating to the publication of the Pay Policy Statement, it is positive to note that the Council is a Living Wage Foundation accredited employer. This enables the Council, as a key employer in York, to lead by example in encouraging other local employers to consider paying their staff the Real Living Wage. This supports ambitions within the York Economic Strategy 2022-2032 to improve living standards and livelihoods for all of York’s residents and businesses and to promote ‘an economy driven by good business’.
29. **Specialist Implications Officer** – (Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer). There are no further implications.

Risks and Mitigations

30. There are no significant risks associated with production of the Pay Policy Statement.

Wards Impacted

31. There are no wards impacted by this report.

Contact details

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

Author

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Name: | Judith Bennett |
| Job Title: | Pay, Reward and Policy Manager |
| Service Area: | Human Resources |
| Telephone: | 01904 551716 |
| Report approved: | Yes |
| Date: | 7 th February 2025 |

Background papers

None

Annexes

Pay Policy Statement and Transparency Information 2025-26



**Pay Policy Statement
and
Transparency Information**

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

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Introduction

This document contains information about the Council's workforce, in particular the annual Pay Policy Statement for 2025/26 as required by the Localism Act 2011, and other information required under the Local Authorities (Data Transparency) Code 2015.

The Council has taken the following action to ensure that this Policy Statement is easily accessible to the public:

- it is published on the Council's open data website in a readily accessible place - Senior Salary information, under Governance and Transparency.
- it can also easily be found under global web searches.



Localism Act 2011 - Pay Policy Statement

The following section sets out the Council's Pay Policy in relation to the remuneration of its Chief Officers and employees - in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

The policy is subject to annual review and must be approved by the Council each financial year. This statement is valid from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. The structures and pay rates quoted are correct as of 31st January 2025.

Subject to specific circumstances it may be necessary to amend the Pay Policy statement during the financial year. Any changes or amendments made will be subject to full Council approval.

The policy will be published on the Council's website as soon as reasonably practicable after Council approval or amendment.

The arrangements set out within this document do not extend to those members of staff who are employed within schools. This is because the scope of the Localism Act does not require Councils to consider individual schools.

The Council is mindful of its duty as defined in the Equality Act 2010. This Pay Policy Statement forms part of a range of pay policies to promote equality in pay practices and assists in ensuring that the Council is promoting transparency of senior managers' pay and a fair approach to pay related equalities objectives.

Definition of officers covered by the Policy Statement

This Policy Statement covers the following posts:

Statutory Chief Officers:

- Head of Paid Service & Returning Officer - Chief Operating Officer
- Monitoring Officer - Director of Governance
- Director of Children's Services – Corporate Director Children & Education
- Director of Adult Social Services - Corporate Director Adult Social Care & Integration
- Chief Finance Officer (S151) – Director of Finance
- Director of Public Health - Director of Public Health

Non-statutory Chief Officers:

- Director Transport, Environment & Planning
- Director City Development
- Director Housing & Communities
- Director of Adults Safeguarding
- Director of Children's Safeguarding
- Assistant Director Adult Social Care
- Assistant Director Education & Skills
- Chief Strategy Officer
- Assistant Director (Consultant) in Public Health
- Assistant Director Customers, Communities & Inclusion
- Chief Officer HR & Support Service

Policy on remunerating Chief Officers

The Council has a policy for remunerating Chief Officers based on job evaluation and a grade structure. No changes to this are proposed to this during 2025- 2026.

The grade and salary structure for Chief Officers and the Chief Operating Officer as at January 2025 is:

Pay rates effective from 1st April 2024

| | | |
|--|---|----------|
| Chief Operating Officer | 4 | £163,499 |
| | 3 | £161,297 |
| | 2 | £159,096 |
| | 1 | £154,693 |
| Corporate Directors | 4 | £122,715 |
| | 3 | £118,845 |
| | 2 | £115,120 |
| | 1 | £111,509 |
| Directors | 4 | £109,529 |
| | 3 | £105,893 |
| | 2 | £102,382 |
| | 1 | £98,989 |
| Assistant Directors | 4 | £89,956 |
| | 3 | £86,784 |
| | 2 | £83,983 |
| | 1 | £81,174 |

Any annual increase to the salary scales is in accordance with awards negotiated nationally by the respective National Joint Councils and applicable from 1st April annually.

Progression through the salary scale for the Chief Operating Officer is dependent upon performance and approval by the Leader of the Council.

Progression through the salary scale for Chief Officers is dependent upon performance and achievement of objectives, approved by the line manager.

Salary on Appointment of Chief Officers

The appointments sub-committee, subject to Pay Policy and job evaluated range for the post, determines the salary level and package offered to the successful candidate.

Chief Officer pay packages over £100k in value are subject to approval by the Council's Staffing Matters & Urgency Committee upon creation.

Bonus and Performance related payments

The Council does not make any such payments.

Pension Contributions

Employer pension contributions are set by the relevant pension fund.

Benefits in Kind

There are no benefits in kind to which officers are entitled as a result of their employment.

Travel and other expenses

Any necessary travel and expenses are reimbursed through normal Council procedures.

Election Duties undertaken by Chief Officers

Fees for election duties undertaken by Chief Officers are not included in their salaries. The Chief Operating Officer is the Returning Officer and receives payments for elections. For local elections, fees are set locally. For national elections, fees are set by the Cabinet Office.

Termination payments of Chief Officers including redundancy and pension discretion

The Council applies its normal redundancy payments arrangements to Chief Officers and does not have separate provisions for them. The Council also applies the appropriate Pensions regulations when they apply. The Council has agreed policies in place on how it will apply any discretionary powers it has under Pensions regulations. Any costs that are incurred by the Council regarding Chief Officers are published in the authority accounts as required under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

Approval of any pension discretions are made by the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee.

Non-contractual Chief Officer and officer Special Severance Payments over £100k in value are subject to approval by the Council's Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee.

Remuneration of other non-chief officer staff

In addition to the separate arrangements for the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Officers, the Council has staff employed under terms and conditions set for the following groups:

- Local Government Services Employees
- Soulbury Officers
- Educational Psychologists
- Workshop for the Blind
- Teachers (non-school based)
- The council also employs staff who have separate terms and conditions subject to the Transfer of Undertaking and Protection of Employment (TUPE) Regulations.

Increases to the Council's salary scales for non-chief officer groups are in line with annual salary awards negotiated nationally by the respective National Joint Councils.

Policy on remunerating the lowest paid in the workforce

The Council applies terms and conditions of employment that have been negotiated and agreed through appropriate collective bargaining mechanisms (national or local) or as a consequence of Council decisions. These are then incorporated into contracts of employment.

The Council operates a grading structure for Local Government Services employees. This runs from Grade 2 to 13 and the lowest paid employees, excluding apprentices, are situated within this structure at Grade 2.

The Council is a Living Wage Foundation accredited employer which means its lowest pay point complies with its outside London Living Wage rate. From 1st April 2025 this rate of pay will be £12.60 per hour (£24,308 per annum). A Living Wage supplement is in place if needed to bridge any gap between basic pay and the Living Wage rate.

Apprenticeship Pay

The Council's pay rates for apprentices are:

- Year 1 (regardless of age) – the equivalent of the National Minimum Wage for 18- to 20-year-olds.
- Year 2 and any subsequent years (regardless of age) – the National Living Wage for those aged 21 and above.
- Rates increase annually in April following any changes made to the National Minimum and National Living Wage rates.

Policy on the relationship between Chief Officer Remuneration and that of other staff

At the time of this report the highest salary in this Council is £163,499 which is paid to the Chief Operating Officer. The median salary in this council is £32,681 (Apprentices have been excluded from the calculation for the median.) The ratio between the two salaries, the 'pay multiple' is 5.003:1. This Council does not have a policy on maintaining or reaching a specific 'pay multiple', however the Council is conscious of the need to ensure that the salary of the highest paid employee is not excessive and is consistent with the needs of the Council as expressed in this Policy Statement.

Amendments to the policy

No amendments to the Pay Policy are anticipated during the year. If changes are made these will be presented to full Council for approval as appropriate

Policy for future years

This Policy Statement will be reviewed each year and presented to full Council for consideration.

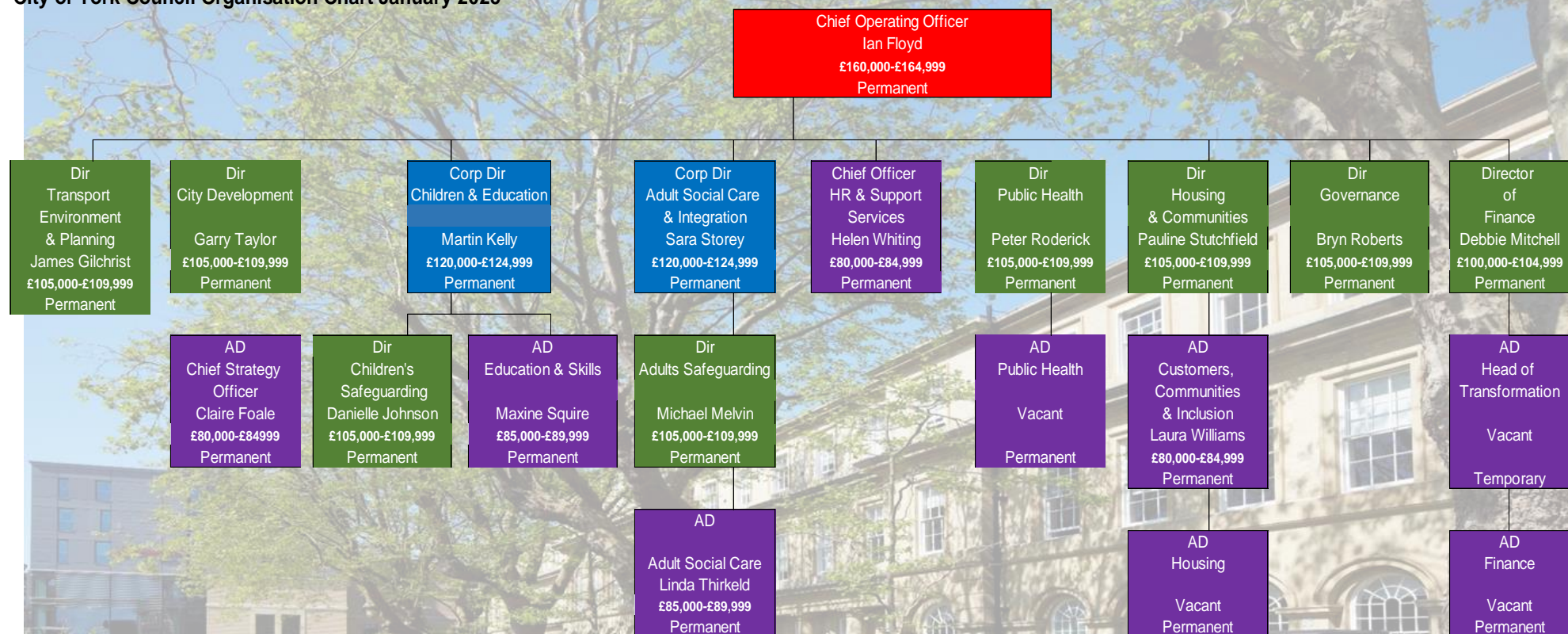


Transparency Information

The following section provides the mandated information as required under the Local Authorities (Data Transparency) Code 2015.

Organisation Chart (See further notes below)

City of York Council Organisation Chart January 2025



Notes for the Organisation Chart

The chart shows the council's senior staff. The information shown is in the order of:

Job Title
Department
Name of job holder
Salary in £5,000 brackets
Contract status


The grades are colour coded within the above organisation chart, and the salary ceilings for these grades are as follows:

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| COO | up to £163,499 |
| Corp Dir | up to £122,715 |
| Dir | up to £109,529 |
| AD | up to £89,956 |
| G13 | up to £74,555 |

For example; Corporate Director for Children and Education has a salary ceiling of £122,715 and within the transparency guidance £5,000 salary banding this role would fit within the band of £120,000 to £124,999.

The senior staff can be contacted by:

 Email using: firstname.lastname@york.gov.uk

 Telephone: 01904 551550

More information on service responsibilities can be found at: [Council Management Team – City of York Council](#)

Employees with remuneration over £50,000.

The Council has 181 employees with remuneration over £50,000. This includes the roles reported in the organisation chart. The employees included in this count are covered by the national pay arrangements for Chief Operating Officers, Chief Officers, Soulbury Officers, Educational Psychologists, Teachers (non-school based) and Local Government Service Employees.

No of employees with remuneration over £50,000 in £5,000 brackets:

| Pay Bands £ | Count of Job Holders |
|---|----------------------|
| 50,000 - 54,999 | 48 |
| 55,000 - 59,999 | 79 |
| 60,000 - 64,999 | 23 |
| 65,000 - 69,999 | 8 |
| 70,000 - 74,999 | 7 |
| 75,000 - 79,999 | 1 |
| 80,000 - 84,999 | 2 |
| 85,000 - 89,999 | 2 |
| 90,000 - 94,999 | 1 |
| 95,000 - 99,999 | 1 |
| 100,000 - 104,999 | 2 |
| 105,000 - 109,999 | 5 |
| 120,000 - 124,999 | 1 |
| 160,000 - 164,999 (Chief Operating Officer) | 1 |
| Grand Total | 181 |

Remuneration for a full year, has been taken from a twelve month data extract up to 31st December 2024.

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