

Notice of a public meeting of

Place Scrutiny Committee

- To:** Councillors D Myers (Chair), Healey (Vice-Chair), Fenton, Hook, Clarke, K Taylor, Vassie, Wells and Whitcroft
- Date:** Tuesday, 19 May 2026
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
To receive and note apologies for absence.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 5 - 6)
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.
- 3. Public Participation**
At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the Committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines are set as 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the

management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is **5:00pm on Friday 15 June 2026.**

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 meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

- 4. Minutes** (Pages 7 - 12)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2026.
- 5. Neighbourhood Caretakers Development and Update** (Pages 13 - 60)
To consider an update on the first seven months of implementation of the Neighbourhood Caretakers and the future development of this work.
- 6. Task and Finish Group Proposal: Section 106 Agreements Process Improvements** (Pages 61 - 66)
To consider and agree the proposed approach to a Task and Finish Group review in relation to Section 106 Agreements Process Improvements.
- 7. Work Plan** (Pages 67 - 80)
To consider the Committee's work plan.
- 8. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

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我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

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

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

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

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Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

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

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

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

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

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Place Scrutiny Committee
Date	26 January 2026
Present	Councillors Healey (Vice-Chair), Baxter, Fenton, Hook, D Myers, K Taylor, Whitcroft and Waller (Substitute)
In Attendance	Councillor Lomas – Executive Member Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion Councillor Kent – Executive Member Environment and Climate Emergency Debbie Mitchell – Director of Finance Nick Collins - Head of Property Services Shaun Gibbons – Head of Carbon Reduction Dave Meigh - Operations Manager (Strategy and Contracts) Public Realm
Apologies	Councillors Vassie

20. Apologies for Absence (5.30 pm)

The Committee noted apologies from Cllr Vassie who was substituted by Cllr Waller.

Due to the position of Chair currently being vacant, Cllr Healey the Committees Vice Chair was confirmed as chairing the meeting and Cllr Myers was voted Vice Chair for the meeting.

21. Declarations of Interest (5.31 pm)

Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in respect of business on the agenda.

Cllr Taylor confirmed that he had a non-prejudicial interest as he is a Trustee of the York Railway Bowls and Social Club referred to in the paper as a council owned property that is listed in the report.

Cllr Fenton confirmed that he had a non-prejudicial interest as he is a trustee of Foxwood Community Centre which is a Council owned property but not listed in the report.

22. Exemption of Press and Public (5.31 pm)

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of 2 confidential annexes to Agenda Item 6 on the grounds that it contains Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). This information was classed as exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as revised by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

23. Minutes (5.32 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the Place Scrutiny Committee on 25 November 2025 be signed as a correct record of the meeting.

24. Public Participation (5.32 pm)

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Gwen Swinburn raised concerns that the Council did not have an asset disposal strategy and believed not enough information was provided for Members to assess the performance of Council assets. She stated that there should be more publicly available information relating to off market sales of public assets. She also stated that she felt the Committee should meet more regularly to ensure sufficient scrutiny of issues across its portfolio, for example on city-wide parking issues.

25. Asset Management Strategy - 2026 to 2031 (5.36 pm)

Officers introduced the report which was seeking the Committee's input on the proposed Asset Management Strategy - 2026 to 2031 which would be considered by the Executive on 3 March 2026. Key principals of the strategy were outlined including details of the progress made against the 2020 to 2025 strategy. Officers also provided an update to the report regarding a deal for a data centre at the York Community Stadium which

would no longer be going ahead, Officers would continue to explore new opportunities for the space. It was also noted that there had been a typo at paragraph 111 of the Executive report at that it should read that 200,000 trees had been planted not 2000.

The Committee raised a number of assets in their wards which were not specifically listed within the strategy and whether plans were set out for these assets. Officers noted that the strategy could not list every asset the Council had but would guide decision's relating to assets, alongside, the Council's governance arrangements relating to decisions on assets, with many assets particularly those valued over £500,000 or where a decision could be contentious requiring Executive approval for decisions relating to the asset. Members enquired whether it was possible for a breakdown of all Council assets and the Ward they were in could be shared with Members, Officers agreed to look into this and reminded Members of the York Map which could be used identify assets.

Members noted that the Council generated most of its property income from office space and enquired whether changes in working patterns could negatively effect this and what was identified to address any changes. Officers acknowledged the changes in working patterns with more home and hybrid working since the pandemic. Officers noted that the Council was doing very well in this period at renting out office space including increasing revenue from renting out space in the Council's West Offices building and were doing well at renting out office space across the city. They noted that should changes affect the viability of these spaces then the Council would seek to consider its strategy to identify how to use an asset, noting the focus on economic development and wellbeing of the city including generating income. Offices confirmed that this could include changes of use for assets and disposal.

The Committee discussed the use of Council assets for community uses and it was confirmed by Officers that the Council had a range of considerations for its property portfolio including the role of an asset in the community. Members asked if the Council had a high value asset being used as a community asset would it consider the sale of said asset and relocating community activities to an appropriate new location. Officers confirmed that these were always things worth considering and if the Council had a valuable property any decision would likely require an Executive decision to change the use of disposal of the asset due to its value or considered a contentious decision. Members also enquired

whether the Council provided support and legal advice to community groups which were looking to purchase properties for community use. Officers outlined that the Council wouldn't provide legal advice to others and that they needed to seek their own legal advice but that the Council did support community groups where it was possible and appropriate to do so.

Members discussed the use of Peppercorn rents and when the Council might use these for commercial rents, as well as, how the Council sought to ensure maximum value from their assets. Officers confirmed that in cases where the Council considering the disposal of an asset it would be valued and put out to the market, in cases where it made sense such as a disposal to a developer seeking a wider regeneration of an area then the Council might deal directly with one potential buyer but the asset would still be independently valued to ensure best value. Officers also noted that the Council were required to seek best value with its commercial assets, in cases where Peppercorn rents might be applied to a commercial lease could be in the case of receiving an upfront payment ahead of a new development, in these cases the Council would still seek best value but the rent on the finished property might be lower than its market rate.

[Cllr Lomas was in attendance from 5.52 pm to 7.16 pm.

The meeting adjourned between 6.29 pm and 6.35 pm; Cllr Kent left the meeting during the adjournment.

Between 6.35 pm and 7.25 pm the press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration the two confidential annexes to the report].

Resolved:

- i. Noted the Strategy.
- ii. Requested that ward Councillors be provided privately with details of Council assets in their wards, in conjunction with ward maps.
- iii. Recommended that the Strategy develop recognition of volunteer contribution into the assets.
- iv. Recommended that work be done with the communications team to look at options for increasing the visibility of the Council's logo on Council assets.

Reasons: This will be used to inform the Executive decision-making process of the views of the Place Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Asset Management Strategy - 2026 to 2031.

26. Work Plan (7.34 pm)

Members considered the committee's work plan for the current municipal year.

It was noted that Members remained interested in pursuing a Task and Finish Group around on-street EV charging, and the vice-chair would undertake to draft a scoping proposal. Members agreed to request more further details around the Local Transport Plan and Rougier Route items which had been suggested for the Committee's March meeting.

Attention was drawn to the government consultation on pavement parking, and it was agreed to add this to the Committee's list of unallocated items for future discussion.

Members considered a request from Cllr Kent to include an item on Water Scrutiny on the Committee's work plan for July 2026. This followed the agreement of a Motion in relation to tackling pollution in York's Rivers at the November 2025 meeting of Council. The proposed item would include participation from the Council and partners including Yorkshire Water and the Internal Drainage Boards. Members agreed to the proposed item, and requested that water-focused campaign groups locally also be invited to participate.

Cllr Myers noted that he was to be his Group's nominee for Chair of the Committee. This would subject to approval at the next meeting of Council, and should his nomination be approved, he would meet with the Vice-Chair at an early opportunity.

Resolved: To agree the Committee's work plan, subject to the suggested changes.

Reason: To ensure the Committee maintains an appropriate programme of work.

Cllr Healey, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.40 pm].

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Place Scrutiny Committee**19 May 2026**

Report of the Director of Environmental & Regulatory Services

Neighbourhood Caretakers Development and Update**Summary**

1. Executive and officers are keen to seek Scrutiny Committees views on the first 7 months of implementation and ideas on how a Neighbourhood Caretaker model may be further developed.
2. Attached as **Annex A** is a presentation of current success to date and ideas for further development.
3. Proposed approaches for Weed treatment opt out and Community Public Realm Management are outlined in **Annex C** and **Annex D**.

Background

4. Within the Council Plan is a commitment to Develop a 'Caretaker' proposal to reflect pride-in-place priorities in neighbourhood plans.
5. Scrutiny are being asked to provide feedback on outcomes and how different approaches to expanding on the success to date may be considered.
6. This model informed teams to specifically focus on local priorities that emerge from ward walk abouts but are not picked up by existing service delivery as issues have not met the threshold for earlier intervention.
7. There has been both people and equipment resource dedicated to the Neighbourhood Caretaker team:
 - a) 1 Neighbourhood Caretaker Foreperson

- b) 7 Neighbourhood Caretakers
- c) 2 Commercial vehicles
- d) 1 Mechanical sweeper
- e) Various small pieces of small plant and equipment

8. Within the Communities Team Community Officers have planned the walkabout routes, liaised with invitees, facilitated the walkabouts and captured and reported the issues identified. Environment and Community Officers have attended walkabouts to support on issues relating to green spaces.
9. The first walkabout took place on 29th September 2025, with the delivery team following 2 weeks later to undertake the tasks identified.
10. Since then, walkabout and follow up visits have been consistently weekly with the exception of the Christmas break.
11. It was agreed that the operational team would be planned in approach and not be used as part of the wider Public Realm service to and not be another reactive resource.
12. Additional one off funding was agreed for 2026/27 to appoint a further two Neighbourhood Caretakers, with a focus on Active Travel Route (ATR) and in accordance with the LCWIP.
13. ATR's will be included in scope of walkabouts as well using data and maps to undertake maintenance.
14. Communications have been key to promoting the work of the caretakers and various messages and images have been shared across social media platforms.
15. To compliment the work of the Neighbourhood Caretakers and consistent with the Neighbourhood model, communities have expressed interest in public realm management. This has been a challenge in the past mainly due to health and safety considerations when work in the Highway. **Annex D** proposes some trial areas to work through the opportunities and issues.

16. Communities have also expressed an interest in managing weeds in a different way in their areas. **Annex C** explores a proposed process for this.

Consultation

17. A report was presented in January 2025 to the EPAT Scrutiny Committee to gather feedback to inform the policy and model for the neighbourhood caretaker approach.

Council Plan

18. Within the Council Plan is a commitment to Develop a 'Caretaker' proposal to reflect pride-in-place priorities in neighbourhood plans.
 - a) Environment – Embed pride in place culture and improve communities
 - b) Equalities – The Neighbourhood Caretaker team have worked through a programme of works following the neighbourhood model of areas. By the time of Place Scrutiny Committee every ward within the four-area model will have been visited **Annex B**.

Implications

19. This report is for discussion; there are no direct implications arising.

Risk Management

20. Since the introduction of the neighbourhood caretaker team, there have been no risks associated with how the team operate and the initiative and the service have received positive feedback from stakeholders and residents.
21. There is no impact on the wider service and the neighbourhood caretaker team operate in with dedicated resource.

Recommendations

22. The committee is asked to:

- i. Review and feedback on the Neighbourhood approach to date;
- ii. Comment on the scope of the Neighbourhood approach;
- iii. Suggest further improvements that can be made.

Reason: To contribute to the development of the Neighbourhood Caretaker model.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Dave Atkinson
Director of Environmental and
Regulatory Services

**Report
Approved**



Date 11/05/2026

Ian Houlton
Head of Environmental
Services
Environmental Service –
Public Realm
Ian.Houlton@york.gov.uk

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

EPAT Scrutiny - Neighbourhood Caretakers: Proposal Development
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s181303/Caretakers%20Cover%20Report.pdf>

EPAT Scrutiny - Neighbourhood Caretakers Presentation January 2025
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s181304/Neighbourhood%20Caretaker%20EPAT%20Scrutiny.pdf>

Annexes

Annex A: Neighbourhood Caretaker Place Scrutiny Presentation

Annex B: List of areas visited to date

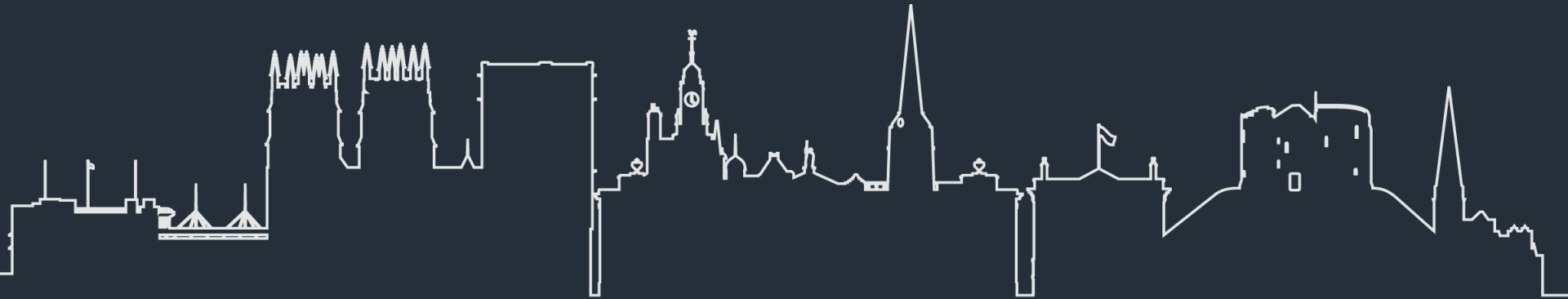
Annex C: Weed treatment opt out process

Annex D: Community Public Realm Management

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Neighbourhood Caretakers

Place Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday
19th May 2026



Council Plan

The Council Plan includes a commitment to:

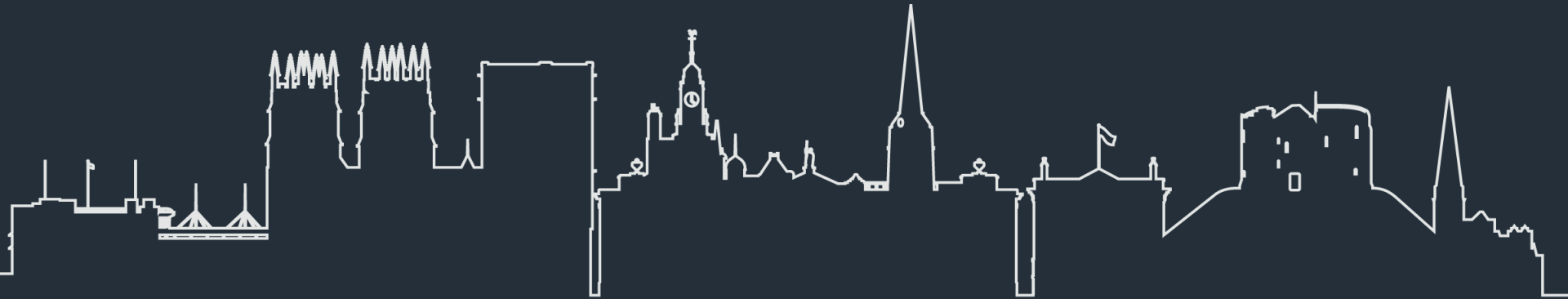
‘Develop a “Caretaker” proposal to reflect pride-in-place priorities in neighbourhood plans.’

Neighbourhood approach

The Neighbourhood approach is designed to engage directly with communities, as a whole, through Ward Councillors, residents and community groups and working together to identify priorities that can be focused on and addressed.

Desired Outcomes

- **Outcome 1** - Delivering a locally proactive service and tangible improvements in public realm for local communities. Developing and tapping into local knowledge and expertise
- **Outcome 2** - Better working between departments
- **Outcome 3** - Working with volunteers in a more creative way to maximise impact; mapping where volunteer activity exists, coordinating City Wide call outs for GBSC and Autumn leaf clear ups at a minimum, and filling gaps where volunteers are low or non-existent
- **Outcome 4** - Supporting resident led initiatives such as Adopt a Verge, Weed Spraying opt-outs and tree planting to help deliver Council Plan priorities of increased biodiversity and climate adaption/mitigation
- **Outcome 5** - Delivering services in the most efficient way possible, value for money
- **Outcome 6** - Addressing Council Plan priorities.



Neighbourhood Caretaker Team

- The Neighbourhood Caretaker team is made up of 1 Foreperson and 7 Caretakers.
- The team have dedicated equipment - 2 light commercial vehicles, 1 mechanical sweeper and various small pieces of plant and equipment.
- In 2026, Executive agreed additional funding for 2026/27 to increase the Caretaker team by 2 FTE. These additional employees will focus on maintaining Active Travel Routes (ATR).
- The team are based out of Hazel Court, Eco Depot.

Neighbourhood Caretaker Team Deployment

- Ward walk-about take place usually Mondays, weekly led by Community Officers along with HMO/Housing Repairs/Place/Eco-Officer/Police and other relevant parties to identify priority ward improvements.
- Every area and ward are scheduled to have the same proportion of time scheduled for work. On 11th May 2026, every area will have had a walkabout in the first 7 months of the teams inception.
- These issues/improvements will be then be prioritised for each area (as per the Neighbourhood Model North/East/West and Central) by the Community Officer and relevant officers.
- Issues are reported through the Councils CRM but have a Neighbourhood Caretaker tag so they are easily identified and passed through to the service and the operational delivery team schedule the tasks for 2 weeks later.
- The lists will also feed into community action days/weekends encouraging participation in ‘Taking care of your Community’ which appeals to all ages and demographics, targeted at the lower-level issues such as litter picking, painting fences etc.

Neighbourhood Model Geographies



CITY OF
YORK
COUNCIL

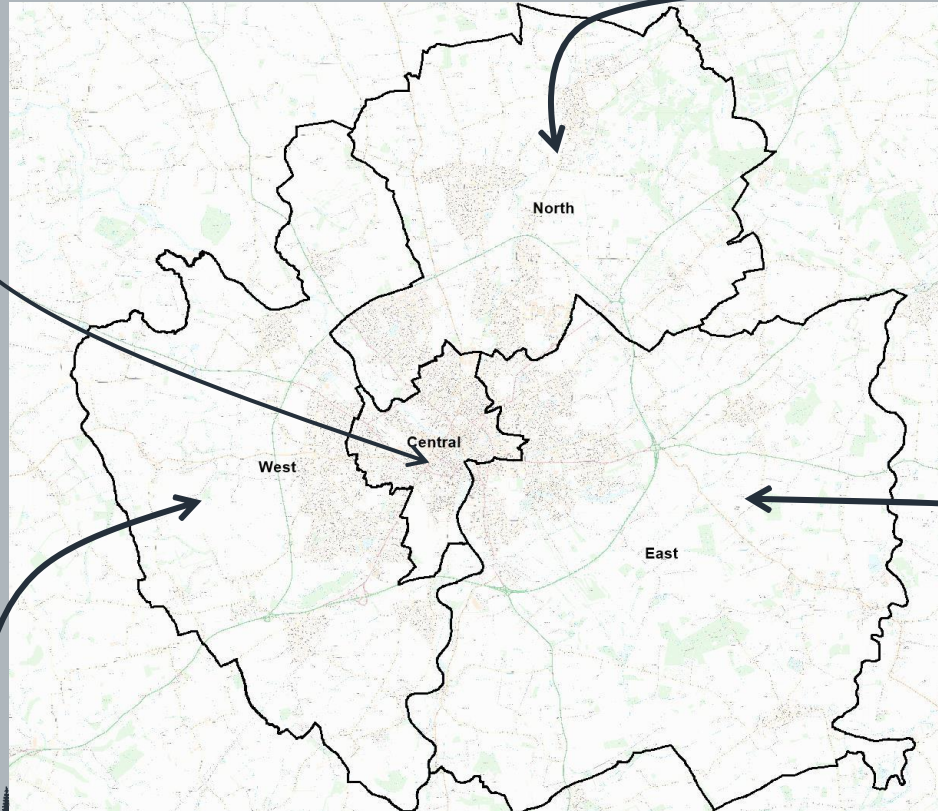


CENTRAL

48,816 population
1x Family Hub
1x Mental Health Hub
11 GP branches
2,538 CYC homes
2x in bottom 20% deprived areas nationally

NORTH

44,870 population
1x Family Hubs
8 GP branches
19 CYC homes
0x in bottom 20% deprived areas nationally



WEST

51,345 population
2x Family Hubs
1x Frailty Hub
1x Mental Health Hub (proposed)
9 GP branches
2,559 CYC homes
3x in bottom 20% deprived areas nationally

EAST

59,520 population
2x Family Hubs
1x Mental Health Hub (proposed)
12 GP branches
2,040 CYC homes
1x in bottom 20% deprived areas nationally

Neighbourhood Caretaker Performance Data



1. Number of CRM Incidents Reported by Subject

There were 254 incidents being reported referencing caretakers between October 2025 and March 2026 – see the table as below:

No of CRM Incidents referencing Caretakers Reported							
Subject	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Grand Total
Fly-tipping	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Graffiti	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Quick Log	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Road and Pavement problems	1	0	0	10	14	0	25
Street cleaning	25	4	1	3	6	9	48
Street furniture problem	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Vegetation problem	42	11	25	43	21	34	176
Grand Total	69	15	26	58	42	44	254

Neighbourhood Caretaker Performance

Data

2. Number of CRM Incidents Resolved by Caretakers

There were 234 incidents resolved by caretakers across York between October 2025 and March 2026 using the outcomes such as allocated for action, removed, repaired or scheduled for future work – see the table as below:

The remaining 20 incidents were not resolved by caretakers due to the outcomes shown 'a customer wants to cancel this case', 'foliage letter', 'no action – not CYC responsibility', 'no action – no work required', 'passed to internal partner' or 'refer to responsible party'.

No of CRM Incidents referencing Caretakers Resolved							
Subject	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Grand Total
Fly-tipping	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Graffiti	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Road and Pavement problems	1	0	0	9	5	0	15
Street cleaning	25	4	1	3	6	9	48
Vegetation problem	40	9	24	40	21	34	168
Grand Total	67	13	25	53	32	44	234

Neighbourhood Caretaker Performance Data

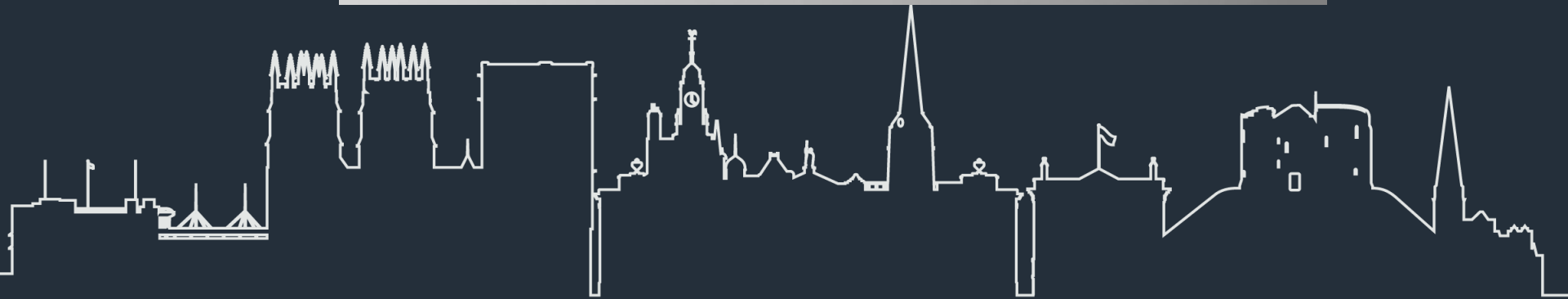


3. Number of Outcomes by Subject

There were 234 incidents being resolved by the caretakers by the outcome actions.

90.6% of issues were being removed by caretakers; 0.4% were allocated for action; 6.4% were repaired and 2.6% of issues were scheduled for future work.

No of Resolved Outcomes referencing Caretakers by Subject						
Outcomes	Fly-tipping	Graffiti	Road and Pavement problems	Street cleaning	Vegetation problem	Grand Total
Allocated for action	0	0	0	0	1	1
Removed	2	1	0	44	165	212
Repaired	0	0	15	0	0	15
Scheduled for future work	0	0	0	4	2	6
Grand Total	2	1	15	48	168	234



Outcome 1 - Delivering a proactive service and tangible improvements in public realm for local communities. Developing and tapping into local knowledge and expertise

- Blend of different services with walkabouts, connection to front facing services and members Community/Resident Association representatives are invited to attend walkabouts where appropriate/of interest.
- Members, Community officers, ECOs and others are embedded in communities and can therefore incorporate local aspirations, concerns and challenges into the walkabout and resulting action planning.
- Communities Team and Public Realm working proactively with Comms to raise awareness of initiative and impact

Outcome 2 - Better working between departments

- The walkabouts are multiagency/service and are having the added value of colleagues from different service areas spending time together. Invitees to walkabouts are also asked to help shape the route/raise issues.
- CYC service departments have forged stronger working relationships, problem solve together and have the benefit of enhanced knowledge by working collaboratively.
- A typical walkabout includes service representation from Public Realm, Communities, Housing, Ward Cllrs, Community Safety and Police (capacity allowing), Volunteer groups, Parish Councils and Resident Associations.
- During walkabouts, if there are items identified that are not in scope of the Neighbourhood Caretaker team these will still be reported for the relevant service area to inspect and decide if intervention is needed.

Outcome 2 - Better working between departments

- 29 multi-agency walkabouts held since 29th September 2025 (31 by 18th May)
- At least one walkabout per ward
- 687 Issues reported of which 403 were identified as Neighbourhood Caretaker tasks.
- 284 Tasks reported to other departments inc Public Realm, Housing, Neighbourhood Enforcement, Highways and Communities.
- Improved working relationships and understanding of respective work areas formed.

Outcome 3 - Working alongside Residents

- The ECO team supports environmental volunteering across the city, they have implemented an opportunity for volunteers in specific roles e.g. litter picker, snow warden, gardener, leaf clearer etc. to also express a willingness to be contacted about other volunteering opportunities across the city and this is being used to support action days and events.
- Total number of current volunteers 1,775
- 500 participants in the Great British Spring Clean 2026 (increase of 100 from 2025)
- Average of 72 action days per year (increasing)
- Average 42 regular activities per month (increasing)



Outcome 3 - Working alongside Residents

- The ECO team has instigated a newsletter for the volunteers (individuals and groups) to keep volunteers informed, showcase the impact of the volunteering and the team, promote initiatives such as the Great British Spring Clean (the ECO team also coordinates and supports the local response)
- The ECO team works closely with York Cares and individual businesses to maximise opportunities and impact of corporate volunteering.
- The Community Officers use their local knowledge and relationships with community leaders to plan routes for walkabouts and invite appropriate attendees. Also share information about local volunteering events with the wider community and proactively look for opportunities to build capacity and awareness of local volunteering and green spaces e.g. the Communities Team is looking to trial a series of family volunteering events over the School Summer Holidays bringing together volunteering, awareness of local green spaces/parks with social activities.

Outcome 4 - Supporting resident led initiatives such as ‘Adopt a Verge’, weed spraying opt-outs, and tree planting to help deliver Council Plan priorities of increased biodiversity and climate adaption/mitigation

- A proposed process for weed treatment opt out is in development. This will allow a community group to make a representation around a street or collection of streets to opt out of weed spraying and take up community management.
- Highways and Transport are developing a policy for ‘Community public Realm Management’ and formalising a process for any introduction of such a policy.
- Current ideas are weed spraying opt out, sustainable planting, alternative grass cutting schedules and tree planting.
- There will be limited capacity for operational teams to support weed opt out or community verge management

Outcome 4 - Supporting resident led initiatives such as ‘Adopt a Verge’, weed spraying opt-outs, and tree planting to help deliver Council Plan priorities of increased biodiversity and climate adaption/mitigation

- Four trial areas in order to explore opportunities and challenges around location, safe working in the Highways.
- Locations for the proposed Community Public Realm Management trials are:

Haxby station road roundabout

Broadway, Fulford

Harewood Whin, Weatherby Road

Hull Road, Osbaldwick

Outcome 5 - Delivering services in the most efficient way possible with value for money

- In 2025/26 the Bags to Bins project was successfully rolled out which moved circa 7000 properties onto wheeled bin refuse collections. This has had a positive impact on improving the environment for these areas.
- A route optimisation for waste collections is now underway with the project team looking at the most efficient way to operate kerbside collections. This work is aimed to be complete by December 2026 with a view to implementation sometime in 2027.
- There was also a consultation with residents of the city to engage about possible moving from boxes to bins for recycling collections.
- All the above initiatives are positive for the wider Public Realm teams by improving the environment meaning the service can focus and utilise resources efficiently.
- Communities strive to utilise expertise, resources and community connections to best effect to address the Council Plan priorities.
- ❖ Climate - Cleaner, tidier streets, communal areas and green spaces.
- ❖ Health - Feel proud of where you live. Opportunities for positive outdoor activities through volunteering

Outcome 6 - Addressing Council Plan priorities

- Active Travel Route Maintenance (ATR): In 2026/27 there will be dedicated resource for ATR maintenance who will focus on ATR that are the Council's responsibility, and this will be in conjunction with the LCWP routes.
- Housing Estates Areas are captured in the walkabouts, and the caretaker team will be deployed into these areas to make improvements. The recent housing inspection by the regulator had high praise for the caretaker team initiative.
- The Integrated Vegetation Management (weed spraying) has been brought in-house for 2026 as part of a trial and to improve poor performance when the service was contracted out. The service is committed to reducing the use of glyphosate and has worked to find the most suitable product. The caretaker team have carried manual weeding in areas of desperate need of improvement which has been welcomed.
- Improved resident satisfaction: as evidenced by improvement in % of people who think the council and partners are doing well at improving the quality of streets/public/green spaces.

Questions for discussion

Scrutiny members to:

Review and feedback on the Neighbourhood approach to date?

Comment on the scope of the Neighbourhood approach?

Suggest further improvements that can be made?



Annex C - Neighbourhood Caretakers before and after photos

Launch communications social media and media summary – September 2025

September 2025

Neighbourhood Caretakers



We focused on creating content that showcased the teams being visible and hands-on in local areas. We identified an opportunity to build a story around the teams' presence on the ground—capturing before and after photography and video to highlight the impact of their work.

We invited the local democracy reporter to join a councillor and the team on site, enabling us to 'own' the narrative and demonstrate the council's commitment to working alongside residents. This approach helped us create a story moment that resonated with communities and showed real, tangible improvements.

The result was strong engagement across social media and positive coverage in local media, reinforcing the message that the council is actively investing in and caring for its neighbourhoods.



Facebook total



- 👁 Impressions: **44,213**
- 💬 Comments: **88**
- 👍 Interactions: **432**
- 🔗 Link clicks: **20**

Instagram total



- 👁 Views: **6,571**
- 👤 Accounts reached: **3,213**

Video views



- 👁 Views: **316 views on YouTube**
- 👁 Views: **677 views on Instagram**
- 👁 Views: **677 views on Instagram**

Newsletters Staff and resident newsletters

Total newsletter link clicks: 103

Media

THE PRESS

YorkMix

701 RADIO

BBC RADIC YORK



Before - off Leeman Road



Before - off Leeman Road



During



After ✓ vegetation removed
Area tidied up



After ✓ vegetation removed
Area tidied up



Before



Before



After ✓ Litter collected
Area tidied up



Before | Pateley Place
Holgate



After ✓ weeds/vegetation
removed
✓ Area tidied up



Before

Clifton Moor and
Shipton Road area.
Plus much more!



After

- ✓ Weeds/vegetation removed
- ✓ Area tidied up



Annex B: Neighbourhood Model Multi-agency Walkabout Schedule to date

Date	Neighbourhood Area and Ward Area	Date	Neighbourhood Area and Ward Area
29 th Sept.	East – Hull Road	9 th Feb	West – Acomb
6 th Oct.	Central – Holgate	16 th Feb	North - Strensall
13 th Oct.	West – Westfield	23 rd Feb	East – Fulford & Heslington
20 th Oct	Central – Clifton	2 nd March	West – Rural West York
27 th Oct	East – Heworth	9 th March	Central – Guildhall
3 rd Nov	Central - Guildhall	16 th March	North – Haxby & Wigginton
10 th Nov	West – Dringhouses and Woodthorpe	23 rd March	East- Heworth Without
17 th Nov	North- Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	30 th March	East – Osbaldwick & Derwent
24 th Nov	East – Heworth	2 nd April (Thursday)	North – Rawcliffe and Clifton Without
1 st Dec	Central – Micklegate	13 th April	West – Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
8 th Dec	West – Copmanthorpe	20 th April	Central - Micklegate
5 th Jan 2026	Central - Holgate	27 th April	East – Wheldrake
12 th Jan 2026	West – Westfield	30 th April (Thursday)	East – Hull Road
19 th Jan 2026	North – Huntington & New Earswick	11 th May	West - Bishopthorpe
26 th Jan	East – Fishergate	18 th May	North – Huntington & New Earswick
2 nd Feb	Central - Clifton		

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Annex C: Weed treatment opt out process

The Council is committed to addressing the climate crisis and ensure the protection and enhancement of the City's biodiversity.

Recognising more than 4,000 species of insects in the UK that pollinate native wild plants and food crops, are under threat, and in decline, due to habitat loss and pesticide use, and in line with the Council's pollinator strategy, the Council are promoting opportunities to manage local area in a more sustainable way.

Part of this is offering the opportunity to local communities to take management of local natural land and opting out of the Council's weed treatment service.

Weed treatment at the Council is undertaken by an in house service.

Note i) at the end of this Annex provides detail on how the service works.

Opting out from Weed treatment will mean the community will take responsibility treatment of weeds in their defined geography (street or streets). This will become a no spray zone.

The following is the proposed process for Weed treatment opt out, taking into account the Council's current capacity to provide support to Communities.

Stage 1

Residents on a street make a representation to the Council supported by neighbourhood teams

- This stage will open from March for the following year, e.g. representations from March 2026 will be for the 2027 season. This stage will close in October
- A street (or streets) identifies themselves with a lead or leads (including contact details).
- The street identifies the geographical scope of the representation. This will need to be at least a street and can be many.

- The street or streets will also need to evidence that the representation has local support.
- The street makes the representation to the Public Realm service, who will acknowledge the proposal.

Stage 2

Neighbourhood teams review and engagement with the street through the identified street lead

- This stage will take place in November once the representations have been received in **Stage 1**
- Officers will review the geographic scope of representation and assess the evidence in terms of local support. This should be an identified street or more and the local support should be representative of the community.
- Initial feedback is given to the street or streets lead.
- The street will have until January to address any outstanding issues.

Potential issues

- The street has previously opted out, but the Council has taken back control as the community has not had the capacity to do the work. This will be managed on a case by case basis.
- Weeding is done in the highway and support is required to support communities doing the work. This may be remedied through [verge adoption], see **Annex E**.

Stage 3

Decision on opt out

- This will take place in February in a management meeting to enable the Public realm service to optimise weed treatment for that season.
- It will be assumed that the geography will be opted out unless (i) the street decide to opt back in or (ii) the Council take back control of treatment in that geography due to lack of community capacity.

Stage 4

Review of opted out areas by neighbourhood teams

- This will take place between June and October.
- The Council will visually assess opted out areas. Resident feedback will also to be taken into account.
- If there has been little or no activity in terms of weed treatment in the opted out areas, the Council will contact the street and may take back control of weed treatment in that geography.

Note i): Weed treatment process

How weeds are treated

All areas of the city will be treated as part of the scheduled programme.

The Council may not respond to weed spraying requests if treatment of the area is part of our planned schedule.

Where accessible, the Council carry out mechanical sweeping after the vegetation has died back, normally around 4 weeks after spraying. This removes dead growth from pavements and channels, helping to improve street cleanliness and prevent new seeds from establishing.

Where and how weeds are treated

Different teams work on different surfaces across the city. We use a combination of:

- Ride-on quadbike sprayers for most pavements and roadside channels
- Pedestrian teams using handheld or backpack sprayers for narrow, obstructed or difficult to reach hard surfaces
- Pedestrian teams treating soft or porous surfaces, such as verges
- Estate workers, who treat council housing land separately
- City centre teams, who treat the city centre on foot and with specialist equipment
- Mechanical street sweeping, carried out after vegetation has died back, normally at least 4 weeks after spraying

This combined approach ensures all areas are appropriately treated and improves cleanliness by removing decaying vegetation that would otherwise encourage new growth.

There are some “no spray zones” across the city where residents have opted out of weed spraying and are expected to manually remove weeds in their areas.

Products used

A range of products are used suitable for different surfaces and weed types, including biological alternatives.

The aim is to minimise our use of glyphosate wherever possible, and the new integrated approach places greater emphasis on using non-glyphosate and biological alternatives on suitable surfaces.

However, glyphosate remains the most effective and reliable weed-control option available to the Council on certain hard surfaces and for tackling more resilient species. For this reason, it will still be used where no other product provides the required level of control.

By combining reduced-glyphosate use with a wider range of alternative treatments, the Council are working to balance environmental responsibility with effective citywide vegetation management.

Examples of products the Council use include:

- Glyphosate based products for hard surfaces only
- Mixed products, such as glyphosate and Chikara, for soft surfaces
- Specialist treatments, such as Icade for Japanese knotweed, Katoun Gold for marestail
- Nonchemical de-greening products, such as Enclean or Katoun Gold, for certain hard surfaces

All products are approved for use in the United Kingdom and are used in line with legislation and manufacturer guidance, and staff are fully trained and certified.

What to expect after treatment

Because of how weed treatments work:

- Only weeds that are actively growing at the time are affected
- Weeds begin to die back within around 10 days, but may take longer depending on weather
- New weeds emerging after treatment will not be affected until the next cycle
- Weeds may still be visible while they die back or before mechanical sweeping takes place
- Injurious or harmful weeds

The Council maintain a live list of locations where injurious weeds such as Japanese knotweed or giant hogweed are present. These are treated through targeted spot treatment, using specialist products

Annex D: Community public realm management

Community public realm management is a scheme that is in development to address opportunities raised by community groups around taking more ownership of the natural environment in their communities.

This has previously been termed “Verge adoption”, but the term “Community public realm management” is now being used as a working title to cover more cases than verges and planters, such as roundabouts, and that the Council will be delegating management to the community rather than community adoption.

There are a number of benefits of Community public realm management:

- Supports biodiversity and pollinator-friendly planting in urban areas.
- Improves neighbourhood appearance and civic pride.
- Builds positive partnerships between the Council and residents.
- Gives communities a direct role in delivering York’s environmental goals.
- There are successful schemes in other councils (e.g. Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, Leeds) which demonstrate feasibility and benefits. Public and councillor interest in York confirms there is a demand.

It is proposed to introduce several trial areas for schemes, enabling individuals, resident groups, and community organisations to maintain suitable council managed pieces of land including grass verges or planters. The scheme will support enhanced biodiversity, improved street appearance, and greater community participation in caring for local green spaces.

The scheme will operate under a controlled and risk-managed approach, with Council Officers providing management input, ensuring locations are only approved where, the group or individuals proposing to work on the verge, details of the planting scheme, land ownership have all been clarified, there are no access issues created by the scheme, there is a

maintenance plan in place to cover the initial 2 years, safe access can be managed for installation and maintenance, with clear governance and to protect utilities and maintain highway safety standards.

Challenges that will be explored and addressed as part of the trial

- Land Ownership
- Approval of individual, group or organisation proposing a scheme and long would a licence last/how would we check an individuals/groups status.
- Approval process of a Scheme including type of planting
- Classification of areas for potential planting by type of road, traffic volumes and traffic composition, any other regular uses of verge (walking or horse access), management of parking on or adjacent to the verge. Managing the risk of working near live carriageways.
- A protocol for management of any issues with such as parking occurring on a planted location, setting out clear responsibilities to address these. It is not proposed to introduce any new waiting or loading restrictions on highway adjacent to any managed area.
- Approved initial two year maintenance plan, a process for taking back management, and how in the medium terms this policy fits with other Council policies and budgets
- Avoidance of underground utilities. This will be mitigated through strict site approval criteria based on Streetworks Permits, an approved planting list with shallow-root species, and a safety agreement for participants and an approved overseeing organisation.
- Risk of inconsistent or poorly maintained areas. Annual checks and a clear process for reinstating Council maintenance will ensure standards are upheld.
- Creation of scheme register
- The land may be public highway. In this case New Road and Streetworks Act (NRWSA) trained people will be needed to work in the Highway. This may be Council staff, trained staff from support organisations, like St Nicks, or trained community groups.
- Trained staff will need to be NRSWA. This will require prior permission from the Council, comprehensive risk assessments,

and strict adherence to traffic safety protocols. Key safety measures include, training, wearing high-visibility clothing, facing oncoming traffic, utilizing spotters, and setting up proper warning signage (cones/signs) to separate workers from live traffic.

Proposed areas identified for the trial

The following trial areas have been identified where different approaches could possibly be identified for Community public realm management. All are areas where historically communities have expressed an interest in public realm management and have been selected for their differing challenges

1) Haxby station road roundabout



2) Broadway, Fulford



3) Harewood Whin, Weatherby Road



4) Hull Road, Osbaldwick



The approach to managing the trial areas will be to determine the opportunities through May 2026 with a view to early implementation, if possible.

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Place Scrutiny Committee**19 May 2026**

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Task and Finish Group Review into Section 106 Agreements Process Improvements**Summary**

1. This report seeks the Committee's agreement to the proposed remit (Annex A) of a Task and Finish Group review into process improvements in relation to Section 106 Agreements.

Background

2. Section 106 agreements are legally binding agreements entered into between a local planning authority and a property owner as part of the planning process in order to mitigate the impacts of new development and to make development acceptable which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. City of York Council is responsible for managing and monitoring all active Section 106 agreements within its administrative area.
3. At the September 2025 meeting of Full Council, a Motion on Notice on Planning Process Improvements, moved by Cllr Steward and incorporating an amendment moved by Cllr B Burton, was agreed.
4. The Motion called for a cross-party group to be set up to look at improvements to the Section 106 process, including five specific objectives as detailed below.
5. It is proposed that this group should take the form of a Task and Finish Group reporting to the Place Scrutiny Committee.

Aim and Objectives

6. The agreed Council motion specified five objectives for the Group as below:

- Share details and discuss the existing review of outstanding S106 money and the plans to spend it (and absolutely ensure any risk of it needing to return it to developers is minimised)
- Improving the process of ensuring all consultees respond to S106 enquiries (noting for example a notable number of large applications which have received no NHS response)
- Creating a system for ward members to identify their ward priorities in the different categories of s106 contributions (in which there is discretion i.e. not education, early years places etc) to inform officers when drafting s106 agreements;
- Ensuring the monitoring of S106 agreements is rigorous and breaches are swiftly acted upon.
- Ensuring that the monies received are spent as promptly as possible to deliver the mitigations / benefits they are for, and that there is a clear monitoring system for this.

Consultation and Methods

7. Consultation has taken place with the Council's internal auditor, Veritau. Veritau is currently undertaking an audit of the controls in place around Section 106 Agreements, including around ensuring there are appropriate safeguards to the Council in the use of developer contributions; a cohesive framework and records management; that Section 106 contributions are appropriately drawn down for spending; and transparency in reporting on funds held against Section 106 obligations.
8. Further consultation will take place with a view to ensuring the Task and Finish Group review is complementary to this audit and avoids any duplication of work.
9. Methods will include desk-based work and consultation with relevant Council officers, including from the Planning and Finance teams.

Timeframe

10. It is proposed that the Group's work is carried out over spring and summer 2026, with a view to presenting a final report to the Committee in September 2026.

Options and Analysis

11. As establishing the group has already been approved by Council, the options available for Members at this stage are either endorse or suggest amendments to the proposed remit of the Task and Finish Group.

Council Plan

12. As Section 106 agreements can be used to support the provision of services and infrastructure, the proposed work has relevance for all seven of the Council's key priorities, as set out in the Council Plan 2023-27 (*One City, for all*).

Implications

13. There are no direct implications to be addressed at this stage in the process. Any relevant implications will be identified by the Task and Finish Group during their review.

Risk Management

11. Any identified risks associated with the findings from this review will be included in the draft final report arising from this review.

Recommendations

12. The Committee is asked to endorse the proposed remit, objectives, and timeframe for a Task and Finish Group review into Section 106 Agreements Process Improvements.

Reason: To enable the Task and Finish Group to proceed with work on the agreed review, towards fulfilment of the motion agreed by Council in September 2025 on Planning Process Improvements.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Julie Gallagher
Head of Democratic Services

Report
Approved



Date 11 May 2026

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Minutes of Full Council meeting, 18 September 2025

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/g15002/Printed%20minutes%20Thursday%2018-Sep-2025%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1>

City of York Council information on developer contributions

<https://www.york.gov.uk/planning-advice-guidance/developer-contributions>

Annexes

Annex A – Task and Finish Group Proposed Remit

List of Abbreviations Used in this Report

None

Place Scrutiny Committee

Section 106 Agreements Process Improvements

Members: Cllr Steward and TBC

1. Summary and Rationale

At the September 2025 meeting of Full Council, an amended Motion on Planning Process Improvements was agreed, which called for a cross-party group to be set up to look at improvements to the planning, and specifically Section 106, process.

2. Aims and Objectives

The agreed Council motion specified five objectives for the group as below:

- Share details and discuss the existing review of outstanding S106 money and the plans to spend it (and absolutely ensure any risk of it needing to return it to developers is minimised)
- Improving the process of ensuring all consultees respond to S106 enquiries (noting for example a notable number of large applications which have received no NHS response)
- Creating a system for ward members to identify their ward priorities in the different categories of s106 contributions (in which there is discretion i.e. not education, early years places etc) to inform officers when drafting s106 agreements;
- Ensuring the monitoring of S106 agreements is rigorous and breaches are swiftly acted upon.
- Ensuring that the monies received are spent as promptly as possible to deliver the mitigations / benefits they are for, and that there is a clear monitoring system for this.

3. Methods

Desk-based research and consultation with relevant officers.

4. Impact on Resources

- Consultation with officers from Planning, Finance, and the Council's internal auditor Veritau, as well as other relevant

officers in relation to specific section 106 elements (e.g. transport, sports equipment etc).

- Beyond officer time there are no cost implications of the proposed work.
- The review is both timely and relevant, coming after the adoption of the Local Plan, the September 2025 Council motion, and concerns raised by elected Members regarding how elements of the Section 106 system in York are operating.
- Veritau is currently undertaking an internal audit of Section 106 Agreements, focusing on the controls in place within the system to ensure there are appropriate safeguards to the Council in the use of developer contributions, a cohesive framework and records management, that Section 106 contributions are appropriately drawn down for spending, and transparency in reporting on funds held against Section 106 obligations.
- There is public interest in Section 106 implications.

5. Proposed Timescale

The Group's work will be carried out over spring and summer 2026, with a view to presenting a final report to the Committee at its scheduled meeting on 22 September 2026. Papers for this meeting will be published on 14 September 2026. (For reference it is anticipated that fieldwork for Veritau's audit will be completed by the end of Q2.)



Place Scrutiny Committee

19 May 2026

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Place Scrutiny Committee Work Plan

Summary

1. This report presents the Committee's work plan for 2025/26 at Annex A, and an outline draft work programme for 2026/27 at Annex B for Members' consideration.

Background and Approach

2. The Committee sets its own programme of work, with input from Executive Members, officers and residents. A draft work plan is set at the start of the municipal year and, as a live document, is a standing item for consideration at each meeting.
3. The Committee's work plan should not be considered a fixed, rigid schedule, but instead can be adapted to reflect any new and emerging issues throughout the municipal year, and any timetabling issues that might occur from time to time.
4. In agreeing its work plan, the Committee should consider the resources, remit and powers available to it whilst also prioritising those areas of scrutiny which would be of most value. The role and remit of the Committee is set out fully in Article 8 of the Council's Constitution.
5. In considering any developments and/or modifications to the work plan, effort should be made to:
 - Avoid unnecessary duplication, including any existing groups already monitoring a particular issue.
 - Ensure any review work has clarity and focus of purpose, will add value, and can be delivered within an agreed timeframe.
 - Consider available resources and relevant timeframes, bearing in mind the Committee's workload and the type of scrutiny activity.

- Build in sufficient flexibility to enable consideration of any urgent matters that may arise during the municipal year, noting that items can be carried over to the following municipal year if required.

Implications and Risk Management

6. There are no direct implications or risks arising from this report; any relevant implications and risks will be identified in the cover report for each agenda item.

Recommendations

7. Members are asked:
 - i. To consider and agree the Committee's draft work plan for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee maintains an appropriate programme of work.

Contact Details

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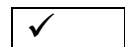
Report
Approved



Date 11 May 2026

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report.

Background Papers

City of York Council Constitution, Article 8: Scrutiny,
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s185896/08%20-%20Article%208%20-%20Scrutiny.pdf>

Annexes:

Annex A – Place Scrutiny Committee Work Plan, May 2026
Annex B – Place Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Programme, 2026-27

Annex A Place Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2025/26

Reviewed May 2026

Meeting	Item	Lead Officer / Exec Member	Scope
24 June 2025			
Parks	Parks Investment Funding	Cllr Kent / Dave Meigh	To seek feedback from the Committee on the recommended criteria to be used in allocating £500k parks investment fund.
Work Planning	Work Planning	Chair / All	To help identify the Committee's focus for the 2025/26 municipal year.
23 September 2025			
Waste	Household Waste Recycling Centre Operations	Cllr Kent / Ian Hoult	For the Committee to comment on the traffic congestion around Hazel Court HWRC and comment on potential options for the future operating of the site.
Parks	Parks Investment Fund	Cllr Kent / Dave Meigh	For Committee to scrutinise prior to planned consideration for approval at October Executive.
25 November 2025			
Transport	Community Transport Study Proposal (Dial and Ride)	Cllr Ravilious / Garry Taylor / Tom Horner	Proposed scope of works to investigate opportunities to restart a community transport service in York.
Transport	Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	Cllr Ravilious / Garry Taylor / Tom Horner	To allow the Committee to comment on the new strategy.
26 January 2026			
Property	Property Asset Management Strategy	Cllr Lomas / Nick Collins / Debbie Mitchell	To explore the Council introducing a strategy for Council property disposals.

Meeting	Item	Lead Officer / Exec Member	Scope
24 March 2026			
Transport	Local Transport Strategy	Cllr Ravilious / Garry Taylor / Tom Horner	Update
Transport	Rougier Route Bus Proposals	Cllr Ravilious / Garry Taylor / Tom Horner	
19 May 2026			
Environment	Neighbourhood Caretakers	Cllr Kent / Dave Atkinson / Pauline Stuchfield / Ian Hoult	Review of the programme after a year of operation.

Scrutiny Member Briefing Sessions

- Thursday 21 October 2025 (Library Needs Assessment)
- Thursday 4 December 2025 (Healthy Weight/Capital Project Management)
- Thursday 26 February 2026 (Digital Switchover)
- Thursday 16 April 2026 (School Attendance and Attainment Gap/Community Woodland Update)

Currently unallocated items (including those referred by previous scrutiny committees)

2025 Library Needs Assessment Report (containing data from the Early Engagement Consultation)

Briefing provided in October 2025 on feedback from consultation on library usage that fed into the Assessment of Need document. This information will then feed into a library strategy and associated budget savings (target £600k) proposals which will be then consulted on. Further opportunity further Scrutiny including either be a part

of the consultation or pre scrutiny (or both) before recommended proposals for Executive likely in the first quarter of 2026.

Assets of Community Value

How can CYC:

- Promote adding to the local register of Assets of Community Value;
- Make it easier for residents and community groups to nominate an ACV;
- Celebrate the success stories of ACVs in our community to encourage new nominations;
- Prepare for law changes on the Community Right to Buy in securing a wider range of ACVs.

Car Parking provision across the city

Covering public, private and Park & Ride provision, Blue Badge parking, income received, usage, impact on closing Castle Car Park on the wider estate, wider aims e.g. shifting to less polluting vehicles, approach taken for busy shopping areas outside of the city-centre (e.g. Haxby, Acomb Front St), future of Res Park.

Parking Enforcement

Costs of service / Income generated - scope to improve? Can we offer services to private land owners?

Activity across entire local authority area - How many enforcement officers do we have, how many fines issued, which areas of their city are they issued in, how often are Res Park zones visited. *A view of this over the last 5 - 10 years would be helpful for identifying trends.*

Position on pavement parking

Consistency of enforcement (seen officers apply different limits to Double Yellow Lines)

Hotline performance - how many reports logged, how many of these received visits in a timely manner (or at all)

Out-of-hours drop in provision due to over-stretched Police unable to prioritise parking

Review of York's economy / economic development strategy

Stock-take of performance against current strategy and its relevance next to the Combined Authority's economic development role, as well as key personnel changes within CYC; Pros and cons of combining economic development services with the Combined Authority

Planning and Development Services - enforcement

Operational challenges / opportunities, performance over the last 5-10 years relative to staffing numbers, numbers of (known) breaches by developers. Non-parking enforcement generally; including A-Board ban.

Tourism Levy

Officers are exploring options with the partners/hospitality sector for a Tourism Levy. Opportunities for Scrutiny engagement when/if a proposal is developed with partners/hospitality sector.

Make It York

General update on their work, successes, challenges, relationship with all of the market traders, plans for Christmas Market (with reference to Committee's previous recommendation to look at ways to "spread" it out to reduce crowding and make it more accessible).

Park & Ride

Opportunity to feed into full tender, following likely short-term tender discussed at March 2025 Scrutiny.

Review of the original Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and other Bus-related matters

- Review of how the first BSIP has gone, achievements, next steps, future asks of the Combined Authority
- Enhanced Bus Partnership; how effective is it, is this the best model for delivering service improvements for residents?
- Bus stop improvements

York's Pay Gap

For 2026 as already had an initial report on the Gender Pay Gap – what is the city's pay gap like in relation to ethnicity and disability? What is the Council doing to support local businesses – especially smaller ones – to improve on their gender pay gap performance?

Highway Maintenance

Adoption of the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan will go through public decision making.

Agreed Task and Finish Groups (TFGs)

Topic	Origin	Aims and objectives	Membership
TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

Possible Task and Finish Groups

Topic	Origin	Aims and objectives	Membership
Section 106 and CIL	Committee work planning briefing. <i>Work underway as of April/May 2026 on developing proposal following Sept 2025 Council Motion around s106.</i>	TBC	TBC
Planning best practice	Committee work planning briefing.	TBC	TBC
Holiday Lets	May 2025 Committee meeting.	TBC	TBC
Increasing Commercialisation of the Council	September 2025 Committee meeting.	TBC	TBC
On Street EV Charging	November 2025 Committee meeting.	TBC	TBC

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Annex A
Place Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Programme 2026/27

Committee Meetings

Item	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Notes
16 June 2026 (additional meeting)		
Recycling Review	Cllr Kent / Dave Atkinson / Ian Houlton	Move from boxes to bins: public engagement and business case.
Car Parking Charges Review	Cllr Ravilious / Claire Foale / Mike James	
21 July 2026		
Water Quality	Cllr Kent / Mark Henderson	Following aims of Motion on Water Quality passed at Full Council November 2025, to explore and consider all the ways CYC and partners can improve water quality in York.
22 September 2026		
TBC		
24 November 2026		
TBC		
12 January 2027		
TBC		
16 March 2027		
TBC		

Annex A
Place Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Programme 2026/27

Potential or unallocated topics

Item	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Notes
Finance and Performance Quarterly Reports	Debbie Mitchell, Ian Cunningham / Cllr Lomas	Regular quarterly briefing to be shared with members via e-mail.
Library Needs Assessment Report (containing data from the Early Engagement Consultation)	Pauline Stuchfield / Cllr Kilbane	Briefing provided in October 2025 on feedback from consultation on library usage that fed into the Assessment of Need document. This information will then feed into a library strategy and associated budget savings (target £600k) proposals which will be then consulted on. Further opportunity further Scrutiny including either be a part of the consultation or pre scrutiny (or both) before recommended proposals for Executive likely in the first quarter of 2026.
Assets of Community Value (ACVs)	Nick Collins / Cllr Lomas	How can CYC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote adding to the local register of ACVs; • Make it easier for residents and community groups to nominate an ACV; • Celebrate the success stories of ACVs in our community to encourage new nominations; • Prepare for law changes on the Community Right to Buy in securing a wider range of ACVs.
Car Parking provision across the city	Garry Taylor / Cllr Ravilious	Covering public, private and Park & Ride provision, Blue Badge parking, income received, usage, impact on closing Castle Car Park on the wider estate, wider aims e.g. shifting to less polluting

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Item	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Notes
		vehicles, approach taken for busy shopping areas outside of the city-centre (e.g. Haxby, Acomb Front St), future of Res Park.
Parking Enforcement	Garry Taylor / Cllr Ravilious	<p>Costs of service / Income generated - scope to improve? Can we offer services to private land owners?</p> <p>Activity across entire local authority area - How many enforcement officers do we have, how many fines issued, which areas of their city are they issued in, how often are Res Park zones visited. A view of this over the last 5 - 10 years would be helpful for identifying trends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position on pavement parking • Consistency of enforcement (seen officers apply different limits to Double Yellow Lines) • Hotline performance - how many reports logged, how many of these received visits in a timely manner (or at all) • Out-of-hours drop in provision due to over-stretched Police unable to prioritise parking
Review of York's economy / economic development strategy	Claire Foale? Garry Taylor? Cllr Lomas? Cllr Kilbane?	Stock-take of performance against current strategy and its relevance next to the Combined Authority's economic development role, as well as key personnel changes within CYC; Pros and cons of combining economic development services with the Combined Authority
Planning and Development Services - enforcement	Dave Atkinson / Cllr Pavlovic	Operational challenges / opportunities, performance over the last 5-10 years relative to staffing numbers, numbers of (known)

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Item	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Notes
		breaches by developers. Non-parking enforcement generally; including A-Board ban.
Make It York	Andy Laslett	General update on their work, successes, challenges, relationship with all of the market traders, plans for Christmas Market (with reference to Committee’s previous recommendation to look at ways to “spread” it out to reduce crowding and make it more accessible).
Park & Ride	Garry Taylor / Cllr Ravilious	Opportunity to feed into full tender, following likely short-term tender discussed at March 2025 Scrutiny.
Review of the original Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and other Bus-related matters	Garry Taylor / Cllr Ravilious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of how the first BSIP has gone, achievements, next steps, future asks of the Combined Authority - Enhanced Bus Partnership; how effective is it, is this the best model for delivering service improvements for residents? - Bus stop improvements
York’s Pay Gap	Claire Foale / Cllr Lomas	For 2026 as already had an initial report on the Gender Pay Gap – what is the city’s pay gap like in relation to ethnicity and disability? What is the Council doing to support local businesses – especially smaller ones – to improve on their gender pay gap performance?
Highway Maintenance	Garry Taylor / Cllr Ravilious	Adoption of the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan will go through public decision making.

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Agreed Task and Finish Groups (TFGs)

Topic	Notes	Membership
TBC	n/a	n/a

Possible Task and Finish Groups (TFGs)

Topic	Origin	Notes
Section 106 / Planning best practice	September 2025 Council Motion	Originally suggested summer 2025 Place Scrutiny work planning briefing. Work underway as of April/May 2026 on developing proposal following Sept 2025 Council Motion around s106.
Holiday Lets	May 2025 Committee meeting.	Discussed at May 2025 EPAT meeting; no further action taken.
On-Street EV Charging	November 2025 Committee meeting.	Discussed at November 2025 Place Scrutiny meeting arising from item on Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.

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Scrutiny Member Briefings

Topic	Committee	Lead Officer / Executive Member	Notes
30 June 2026			
Integrated Care Board (ICB) Changes	People Scrutiny Committee	Peter Roderick / Cllr Steels-Walshaw	Initial briefing on structural changes; to be followed by briefing on implementation phase and an appropriate point.
TBC			
29 September 2026			
TBC			
22 October 2026			
TBC			
3 December 2026			
TBC			
3 February 2027			
TBC			