

City of York Council

Resolutions and proceedings of the Annual Council Meeting of the City of York Council held in the Guildhall, York on Thursday, 21 May 2026, starting at 11.00 am

Present: The outgoing Lord Mayor (Councillor Martin Rowley BEM) in the Chair for the first part of the meeting, the incoming Lord Mayor (Councillor Margaret Wells) in the Chair for the second part of the meeting, and the following Councillors:

Acomb Ward	Bishopthorpe Ward
Lomas Rose	Nicholls
Clifton Ward	Copmanthorpe Ward
Myers Wells	Steward
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	Fishergate Ward
Fenton Mason Widdowson	Whitcroft Wilson
Fulford and Heslington Ward	Guildhall Ward
Ravilious	Clarke Melly Merrett
Haxby and Wigginton Ward	Heworth Ward
Cuthbertson Hollyer Watson	Douglas Perrett 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

Osbalwick and Derwent Ward

Burton
Crawshaw
Kilbane

Rowley

Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward

Rural West York Ward

Smalley
Waudby

Hook
Knight

Strensall Ward

Westfield Ward

Fisher
Healey

Coles
Nelson
Waller

Wheldrake Ward

Vassie

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Wann and Warters.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Appointment of Lord Mayor

Councillor Runciman moved, Councillor Perrett seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Councillor Margaret Wells be elected Lord Mayor of the City of York for the 2026/27 municipal year.

4. Qualification of Lord Mayor

Councillor Margaret Wells signified Acceptance of the Office of the Lord Mayor of the City of York, subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance and took the Oath of Allegiance.

5. Appointment of Sheriff

Councillor Mason moved, Councillor Fenton seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Geoff Cossins be elected Sheriff of the City of York for the 2026/27 municipal year.

6. Qualification of Sheriff

Geoff Cossins signified Acceptance of the Office of the Sheriff of the City of York, subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance and took the Oath of Allegiance.

7. Appointment of Deputy Lord Mayor

Councillor Wells as Lord Mayor moved, Councillor Orrell seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Councillor Martin Rowley BEM be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor for the 2026/27 municipal year.

8. Qualification of Deputy Lord Mayor

Councillor Martin Rowley BEM made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of York and took the Affirmation of Allegiance.

9. Under Sheriff

The Sheriff advised Council that Jessica Fry had been chosen to serve as Under Sheriff during this year of office, and thanked her for undertaking this service to the city.

10. Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Lord Mayor and Lord Mayor's Consort

Councillor Whitcroft moved, Councillor Orrell seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Lord Mayor, Councillor Martin Rowley BEM, and Lord Mayor's Consort, Elizabeth Rowley, for their services to the city during the 2025/26 municipal year.

11. Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Sheriff and Sheriff's Consort

Councillor Douglas moved, Councillor Mason seconded, and Council unanimously

Resolved: That Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Sheriff, Paul Doughty, and Sheriff's Consort, David Smith, for their services to the city during the 2025/26 municipal year.

12. Committee Arrangements, Allocation of Seats and Appointments to the Council Structure and Other Bodies for 2026/27, and Allocation of Council Motions

Councillor Douglas moved, and Councillor Kilbane seconded, the recommendations in respect of allocations to seats, appointments, and other matters, as set out in the report of the Director of Governance.

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

Resolved:

- i) Agrees the allocation of seats in accordance with the arrangements set out in Annex A;
- ii) Agrees the delegation of approval of future changes to group allocations to the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer;
- iii) Notes the Leader of the Council has been elected for a term of four years from 2023 to 2027;
- iv) Notes the Executive appointments and respective portfolios;
- v) Notes the group nominations to Committees and other bodies, as well as appointments to Chairs and Vice Chairs, as set out in this report and its annexes, together with details of any nominations and appointments which may be circulated prior to the meeting, in light of the Council's duty to give effect to group nominations;
- vi) Waives political balance requirements in respect of the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation place; and
- vii) Notes the allocation of motions for consideration at Ordinary Full Council meetings for the period 2026-2027 as set out in Annex C.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's statutory and constitutional requirements.

13. Urgent Business

There were no urgent items of business.

Councillor Margaret Wells
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

(The meeting started at 11.00 am and concluded at 12.25 pm)