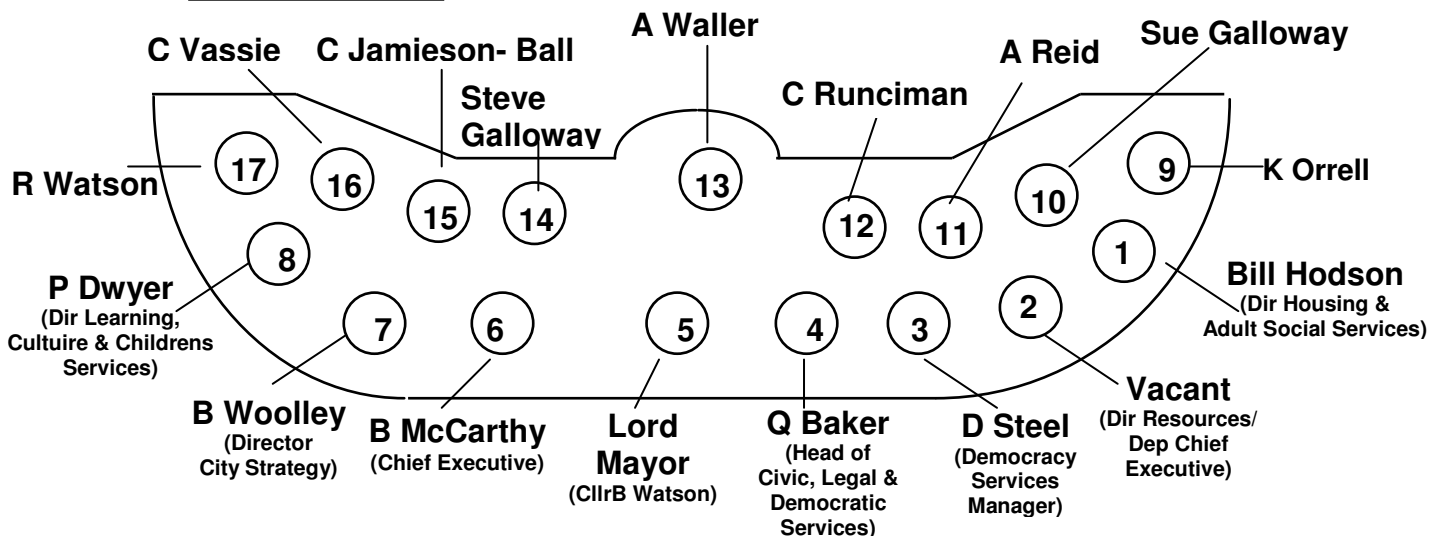
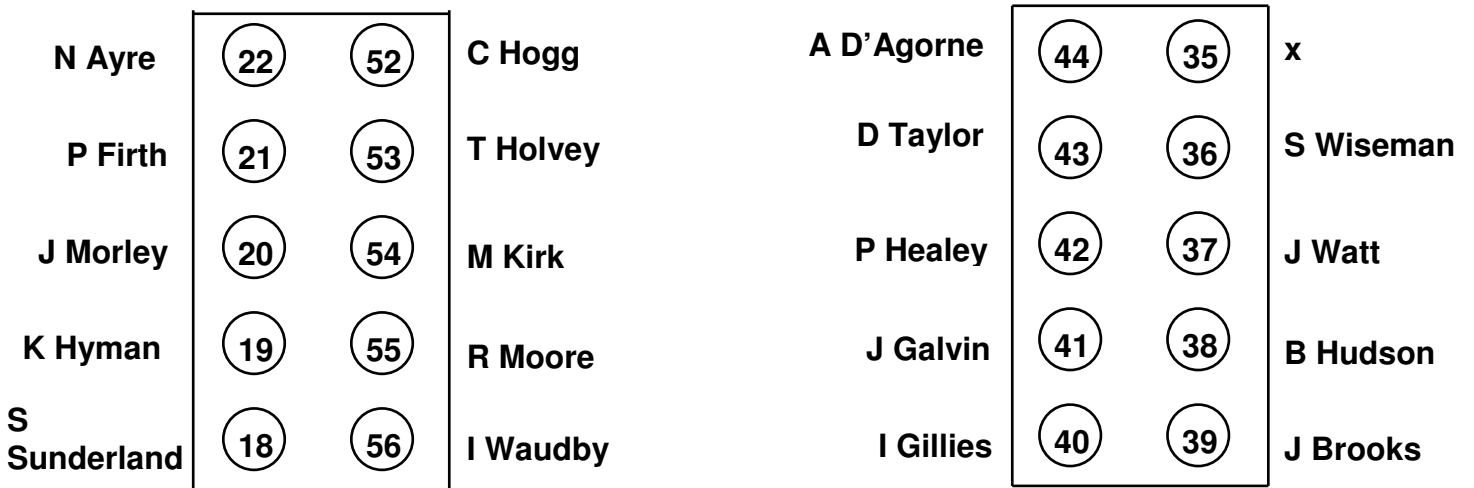
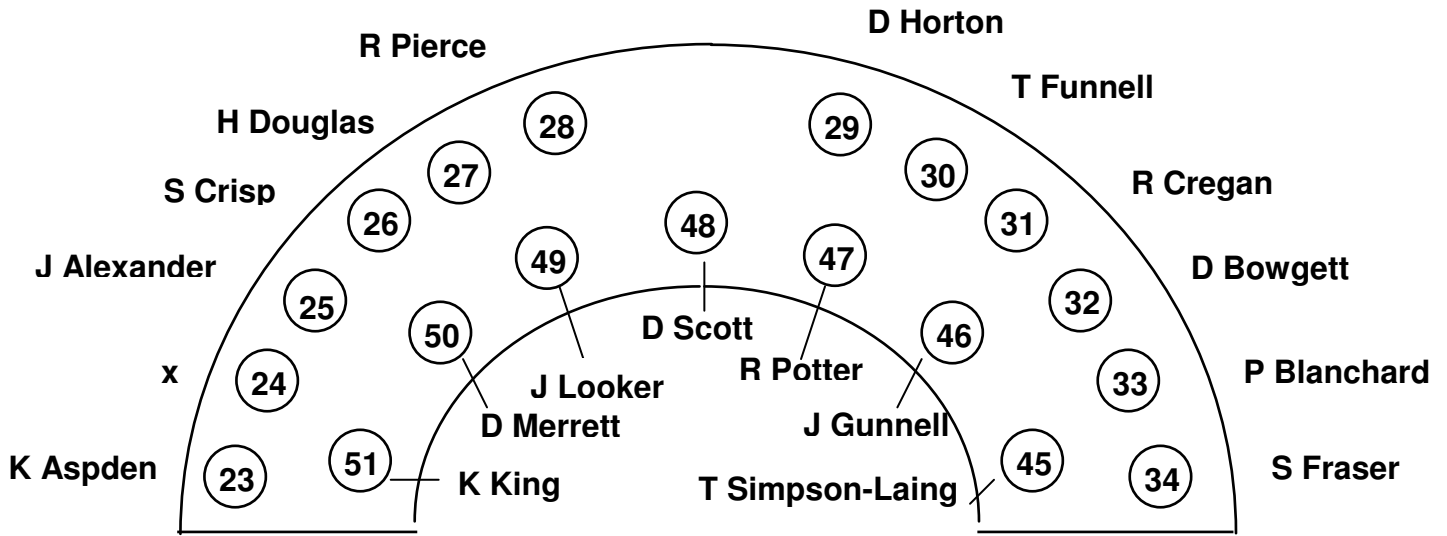


CITY OF YORK COUNCIL SUMMONS

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

Monday, 30 June 2008 at 6.30 pm

COUNCIL CHAMBER



A G E N D A

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 32)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 10 April 2008 and the Annual Council meeting held on 22 May 2008.

3. Civic Announcements

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

4. Public Participation

It is at this point in the meeting that members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the remit of Council may do so. Anyone who wishes to register, or requires further information, is requested to contact the Democracy Officer for this meeting. Contact details are listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Friday, 27 June 2008**.

5. Petitions

To consider any petitions received from Members in accordance with Standing Order No.7.

6. Notices of Motion

To consider the following Notices of Motion under Standing Order 11:

A – Motions referred from the Executive in accordance with Standing Order 11(a)(i)

None

B – Motions submitted for consideration directly by Council, in accordance with Standing Orders 11(a)(ii)

(i) From Cllr Runciman

“Council notes that

- 1) Despite being one of the wealthiest countries in the world, Britain has one in five of its children living in poverty.
- 2) This is the second successive year that national figures have failed to improve, with the number of children living in relative poverty having risen by 100,000.
- 3) Child poverty has only fallen by an estimated 15% since 1998, when the Government set its target to halve it by 2010 and abolish it completely by 2020.
- 4) Approximately 14% of York's children live in poverty, and despite this being below the national average of 20% this is still unacceptable.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and to the 4 MPs for the City of York Council area to request that the Government reaffirms its commitment to halving child poverty by 2010, by investing £2.8bn a year to tackle the issue of increasing child poverty in Britain.”

(ii) From Cllr Gillies

"That this Council instructs officers to investigate, and report back through City Strategy EMAP, with the appropriate agencies the feasibility of developing a dedicated rail service to run between York Railway Station

and Strensall, with intermediate stops at York District Hospital and Haxby, utilising the existing railway infrastructure.

The Council also registers its support for future light railway/tram train systems for the City of York."

(iii) From Cllr Scott

"Council notes and welcomes the £690,000 Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) reward money.

Council also notes that £200,000 has been allocated to assist in the establishment of a community stadium in York.

Council instructs that the reward money be spent in the following ways:-

- £30,000 grant to York Racial Equality Network (YREN)
- £53,000 to reinstate travel tokens entitlements to the 07/08 level
- £54,000 to the Graffiti Tackling Team initiative to replace the cuts in the Neighbourhood Services portfolio budget.
- £10,000 to Safer York Partnership (SYP) towards the establishing of a graffiti database, to replace the cuts to York Pride money allocated to it.
- £50,000 to fund a fireworks display
- £40,000 to fund better Christmas lights
- £30,000 to bring forward the recycling pilot to start pilot to terraced and difficult to access areas in August 2008
- £50,000 to fund pilot of 'Smart Choices' initiative for personalised travel planning
- £20,000 to reinstate Audit and Fraud post

- £50,000 for additional contact hours for Home Care – in relation to city wide enabling and intermediate care team - High Dependency and EMI services
- £40,000 to reduce residents' parking permit fees by 10%
- £27,000 for free evening parking for residents from 5.30pm with effect from 1st July, 2009
- £7,500 to establish free parking for Green Minster Badge holders – for cars owned by residents which are considered 'environmentally friendly' .
- £15,000 additional grant to York Credit
- £7,500 grant to the Older People's Assembly
- £6,000 grant to Older People's Advocacy York"

(iv) From Cllr Kirk

"Council notes that

1) From 2011/12 everyone over the age of 16 applying for a passport will have their details - including fingerprints and facial scans - added to a National Identity register. The Government also plans to make it compulsory for all UK citizens over the age of 16 to have ID cards, despite the fact that all legal UK citizens have NHS and NI numbers so this is wasteful duplication.

2) Successive cases of data loss by the Government, most notably the loss of computer discs containing the personal details of 25 million people, has made the public increasingly concerned about the ID cards scheme.

3) Such a scheme will cost every York taxpayer at least £200, and all York residents £90 to obtain one of the ID cards. The introduction of compulsory identity cards will unfairly penalise residents on lower incomes in York, who are finding it difficult to cope with rising costs of food and fuel.

4) Identity cards will obstruct our civil liberties, allow personal data to be shared without our consent, encourage

fraud, will not prevent illegal working and will not help to fight crime and terrorism.

5) The scheme could cost up to £18bn, which would be better spent on other security measures, such as more police and intelligence officers.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary asking that the Government rejects its expensive plans for ineffective ID cards, most particularly making them compulsory at the expense of local residents.”

(v) From Cllr Simpson-Laing

“City of York Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Housing Minister in support of the cross party report of The Communities and Local Government Select Committee – ‘The Supply of Rented Housing’. Council requests that he ensures that York’s need for affordable housing, as identified in the independent Fordham’s Report, are highlighted in relation to the Committee’s recommendations to ensure that the city of York and its residents receive a fair share of any financial allocation resulting from the report.

The Chief Executive is asked to draw particular attention to the following matters in writing to the Housing Minister in order to:

- receive a fair quota for York of the Committees call to build an extra 50,000 properties, nationally, for the social rented sector each year to meet the country's housing shortage.
- allow councils, including City of York, to build its own homes as a means to providing much-needed affordable homes for York residents.
- increase the supply and quality of rented housing and that homes for rent should no longer be seen as "second best" to owner occupation.
- build more affordable family homes to reduce

overcrowding and waiting lists as a result of building too many flats.

- call for restrictions to be imposed on right-to-buy sales where necessary and that money received remains within the authority of purchase.
- support the call for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to investigate fiscal measures that would provide an incentive to property owners not to leave their properties empty for long periods – and support local authorities in their efforts to prevent and reduce the incidence of ‘buy-to-leave’ through investigating how there can be better use of existing powers, including Empty Dwelling Management Orders, to bring empty dwellings into use and by ensuring that the information necessary to take action, on ownership for example, is readily available.”

7. **Report of Executive Leader and Executive Recommendations** (Pages 33 - 44)

To receive and consider a written report from the Leader on the work of the Executive, and the Executive recommendations for approval, as set out below:

Meeting	Date	Recommendations
Executive	3 June 2008	<i>Minute 7 – York: A City Making History: York’s Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement</i> <i><u>Note:</u> the draft Sustainable Community Strategy (Annex A to item 5 on the Executive agenda) can be found by clicking on the link below. Printed copies can be obtained on request from Democratic Services:</i> http://democracy.york.gov.uk

<k/ieListDocuments.asp?Cld=102&MId=3395&Ver=4>

Executive	17 June 2008	Minute 16 - Urgent Business: Reconsideration of Decision on Back Park Petition
Executive	30 June 2008	Minute - <i>Statement of Accounts (to follow)</i> <i>Note: a copy of the Statement of Accounts was circulated to all Members on 27 June 2008, together with the recommendations of the Audit & Governance Committee on the Annual Governance Statement.</i>

8. Report of Executive Member (Pages 45 - 48)

To receive a written report from the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services, and to question the Executive Member thereon, provided any such questions are registered in accordance with the timescales and procedures set out in Standing Order 8(2)(a).

9. Questions to the Executive Leader and Executive Members received under Standing Order 10(c)

To deal with the following questions to the Executive Leader and / or other Executive Members, in accordance with Standing Order 10(a):

- (i) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Alexander:
“Will the Executive Leader give a date for changes to the Council’s Constitution that will allow ‘champions’ to report to, and progress issues through Council?”

- (ii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:
“Can the Executive Member for City Strategy explain what work has been undertaken on the following motion passed at Council in November 2007:

'Council agrees that bus cross-ticketing, within the City of York Council boundary, is adopted as a primary objective of Council's desire to further develop public transport usage in the city. Council calls for council officers to negotiate with local bus operators to achieve this with a target implementation date being set as being no later than January 2009'?"

- (iii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Merrett:
"Would the Executive Member for City Strategy explain what progress has been made on updating the Council's bio-diversity action plan to meet current standards and to feed in to the draft Local Plan?"
- (iv) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Potter:
"Can the Executive Member for City Strategy urgently investigate ways of incentivising local residents to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and so contribute locally to preventing global warming and climate change, bringing a report back to Full Council for discussion in September?"
- (v) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Gunnell:
"Can the Executive Member for Corporate Services give council members the year on year running costs of the Barbican auditorium to the council since its closure, including Business Rates, Utilities and Security costs?"
- (vi) To the Executive Member for Corporate Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:
"Can the Executive Member for Corporate Services give an update on the identification of ownership of land on Runswick Avenue, which officers have been trying to identify since July 2007?"
- (vii) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Ayre:
"Would the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion report on the visitor figures for the revamped Acomb library and outline forthcoming changes

to the library service elsewhere in the city?"

(viii) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Moore:

"Would the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion comment on the Council's new position on encouraging film crews to visit the city?"

(ix) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Moore:

"Would the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion provide visitor figures and energy performance figures for Yearsley pool since it reopened?"

(x) To the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion, from Cllr Looker:

"Can the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion confirm that the swimming pool at Heslington East campus is a crucial part of the Liberal Democrat swimming strategy, and if so give Council a date when work is expected to commence on site, along with a clear timetable so Council knows the expected date of opening and the pool's location?"

(xi) To the Executive Member for Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

"Can the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services describe her plans and campaigns, through partnership working with the Executive Member for Corporate Services, for the financial year 2008/09, to ensure that York's retired residents who are entitled to Pension Credit and Council Tax benefit are claiming the benefits they are entitled to?"

(xii) To the Executive Member for Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

"Can the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services explain her plans to program and install either double or secondary glazing in remaining single glazed council properties as a means to improve the SAP ratings and eco-footprints of the Council's stock, as well to reduce the fuel bills of tenants?"

(xiii) To the Executive Member for Housing & Adult Social Services, from Cllr Alexander:

“Can the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services report to Council the number of private sector landlords who have signed up to the ‘Voluntary Code of Conduct’ with regard to ‘To Let’ sign advertising that a property is a student property, and what percentage is that of all private sector landlords?”

10. Scrutiny - Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (Pages 49 - 50)

To receive a report from Councillor Galvin, the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) on the work of the SMC.

11. Activities of Outside Bodies (Pages 51 - 52)

a) Minutes of Outside Bodies

Minutes of the following meetings of outside bodies, received since the last meeting of Council, have been made available for Members to view via the Council’s website at

<http://sql003.york.gov.uk/mgListOutsideBodies.asp?bcr=1>

- York & North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership – meeting on 7/2/08
- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority – meetings on 13/2/08 and 25/2/08
- Safer York Partnership – meeting on 10/4/08
- Pension Fund Sub-Committee – meeting on 15/5/08
- North Yorkshire Police Authority – meetings on 4/2/08 and 25/2/08

Copies may also be obtained by contacting Democracy Support Group at the Guildhall, York (tel. 01904 551088)

Members are invited to put any questions to the Council’s representatives on the above bodies, in accordance with Standing Order 10(b).

b) Review of List of Minutes of Outside Bodies reported to Council

Members are invited to review the list of Outside Bodies whose minutes are currently reported to Council and to approve a revised list (*attached*).

12. Appointments and Changes to Membership (Pages 53 - 54)

To consider the appointments and changes to membership of committees and outside bodies set out on the list attached to this summons.

13. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer for this meeting:

Name: Fiona Young

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551027
- E-mail – fiona.young@york.gov.uk

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

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

Contact details are set out above.

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CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 10th April, 2008, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr Irene Waudby) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

Horton
Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD**CLIFTON WARD**

Douglas
King
Scott

DERWENT WARD

Brooks

DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD

Holvey
Reid
Sunderland

FISHERGATE WARD

D'Agorne
Taylor

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker
B Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Firth
Hogg
R Watson

HESLINGTON WARD

Jamieson-Ball

HEWORTH WARD

Blanchard
Funnell
Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Bowgett
Crisp

HULL ROAD WARD

Cregan
Pierce

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore

STRENSALL WARD

Kirk
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Galvin and Watt

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared:

79. MINUTES

Cllr Richard Watson moved, and Cllr Jamieson-Ball seconded, the following amendment to the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 24 January 2008:

“That the note under Minute 62(iii) be amended to read as follows:

‘In accordance with an interpretation of the advice offered by the Monitoring Officer regarding members of the Planning Committee dealing with any future planning applications in relation to the Eco Town proposal, the following Members left the Chamber during the debate on the above motion and took no part in the decision thereon:

Cllrs Blanchard, Cregan, Crisp, Firth, Funnell, Horton, King, Kirk Pierce, Simpson-Laing, B Watson and Wiseman.’”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED

Cllr Brian Watson then drew attention to an error in the second paragraph under Minute 59 (Civic Announcements, Lord Mayor Elect and Honorary Recorder of York), which it was agreed should be corrected.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the above amendment, and the removal of the word *‘for the second time’* from the paragraph under Minute 59 recording Cllr Brian Watson’s acceptance of his nomination as Lord Mayor Elect, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 24 January 2008 and the Budget Council meeting held on 21 February 2008 be approved and signed by the Lord Mayor as a correct record.

80. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no civic announcements.

81. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor reported that there had been one registration to speak at the meeting under the Council’s Public Participation Scheme.

Ian Watkins, Brigade Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union of North Yorkshire, spoke in relation to the Integrated Risk Management Plan and its effects on Fire and Emergency cover in the City of York. He expressed concern at the detrimental effects of the new arrangements on national standards, the

removal of guaranteed attendance times and the pressure to cut resources, and warned that the review of fire cover provision in York could result in the loss of fire engines, as it had done elsewhere in the region.

82. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Mrs Christine Bainton, the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee, presented the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2007/08. She drew attention to the imminent changes to the role and membership of the Standards Committee resulting from implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and the Action Plan agreed in response to issues raised by the Ethical Governance Audit.

Cllr Horton, the Vice-Chair, then moved receipt of the Annual Report and Cllr Hudson seconded the motion and it was

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2007/08 be received.

Cllr Horton then moved, and Cllr Hudson seconded, a recommendation made by the Standards Committee on 14 March 2008 in respect of a proposed alteration to the Members' Allowances Scheme. On being put to the vote, the recommendations were declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the recommendation of the Standards Committee, to include provision in the Members' Allowances Scheme to withdraw Members' allowances during the period a Member is suspended from office as a result of the finding of the Adjudication Panel for England or the Standards Committee that the Member has failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct, be approved.¹

Action Required

1. Amend Members' Allowances Scheme.

GR

83. PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented by Members under Standing Order 7:

- (i) A petition presented by Cllr Potter, on behalf of residents asking the Council to aim for a 'plastic bag free City of York' and calling for a government ban on single use plastic bags.¹
- (ii) A petition presented by Cllr D'Agorne, on behalf of residents calling for a 20 mph zone in certain streets within Fishergate Ward.²
- (iii) A petition presented by Cllr Simpson-Laing, on behalf of residents of Runswick Avenue, Wetherby Road and Beckfield Lane in relation to the ownership of a plot of land in Runswick Avenue.³

- (iv) A petition presented by Cllr Simspon-Laing, on behalf of residents calling on the Council to return the travel token allocation to £40 for the Budget Year 2008/09.⁴
- (v) A petition presented by Cllr Looker, on behalf of businesses in Stonegate, seeking action in relation to nuisance being caused by a beggar in this street.⁵

RESOLVED: That the above petitions be referred to the Executive or appropriate committee.

Action Required

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee (include item on Forward Plan) | KS |
| 2. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee (include item on Forward Plan) | JB |
| 3. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee (include item on Forward Plan) | JB |
| 4. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee (include item on Forward Plan) | JB |
| 5. Refer petition to Executive / appropriate committee (include item on Forward Plan) | KS |

84. NOTICES OF MOTION

Prior to consideration of the Notices of Motion submitted under Standing Order 11, Cllr Scott moved, Cllr Gillies seconded and Council agreed, a motion to suspend Standing Orders to enable an additional motion to be moved, of which notice had not been given.

Cllr Simpson-Laing then moved, and Cllr Gillies seconded, the additional motion, as follows:

“The City of York Council calls upon its Chief Executive Officer to arrange urgent talks, with a view to preventing a reduction in bus service to the residents of York, with Moir Lockhead, the Chief Executive of First UK, Richard Eames, Managing Director of First York, the Executive Member for City Strategy, the Shadow Executive Member for City Strategy and the Director of City Strategy to discuss the changes to be made to bus services by First York, which will have drastic consequences in relation to:

- the ability for York residents to travel to work, education, shop and access to health facilities
- will result in increased traffic levels on many routes
- will result in increased levels of poor air quality

Council requests that the meeting is convened before the 18th April so that any alterations to the proposed changes to services can be lodged with the Traffic Commissioner before the closing date.”

Cllr Reid then moved, and Cllr Waller seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

“At the end of the motion, add:

‘Council calls upon Government to match its words by giving councils more control over bus company fares and routes, and to fully fund any changes to local authorities of national policies which impact on council transport budgets.’”

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

The original motion was then put to the vote and was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above motion be approved.¹

Seven Notices of Motion had been submitted under Standing Order 11, of which three had been referred from the Executive with recommendations and four submitted for consideration directly by Council.

(i) Businesses in City Centre Peripheral Streets

This motion had been referred to the Executive by Council on 4 October 2007 and referred back to Council on 26 February 2008.

It was moved by Cllr Fraser and seconded by Cllr Looker that:

“This Council is concerned that whilst businesses in the inner core of the City Centre are thriving, some of the City Centre peripheral streets such as Goodramgate, Micklegate and Fossgate, were not perceived as benefiting from this prosperity and are, in some cases, taking on a somewhat ‘run down’ look. Further, Council notes that a review of the Council’s footstreets scheme is currently under way and determines that regard should be had to this issue, in the conduct of that review. Finally, Council resolves to allocate adequate resources, including Officer time, to research this problem, and to develop an Action Plan, to include an economic regeneration strategy, to address this issue and to encourage a culture of vibrancy and prosperity, in these streets.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, and the Executive recommendations thereon, be approved.²

(ii) Landfill Tax

It was moved by Cllr Ayre and seconded by Cllr Waller that:

“Council notes:

- 1) The increase in Landfill Tax from £24 per tonne to £32 per tonne from 1st April 2008;

- 2) That when the Landfill Tax was established in 1996 it was stated that it would not be a net revenue raiser by HM Treasury;
- 3) That despite protests from councils of all political persuasions as co-ordinated by the Local Government Association (LGA) still no commitment has been made by central government to return the increased revenues to local government to assist with the provision of improved recycling services;
- 4) That revenues which could be utilised to boost still further the York recycling rate, through additional kerbside collections and improvements in the range of materials collected, will otherwise be lost from this local authority.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Local Affairs, and to the four MPs for the City of York Council area stating the above concerns of the Council.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.³

(iii) Age-Friendly Cities

This motion had been referred to Council by the Executive on 29 January 2008.

It was moved by Cllr Potter and seconded by Cllr D’Agorne that:

“Bearing in mind that older people in York account for 19.4% (35,185) of the population, compared with 13.6% nationally, the Older People’s Assembly welcomes the recent World Health Organisation Guidance on building age-friendly cities. It invites the Council to support the adoption in York of the following key features in the Guidance in order to bring about significant improvements to the lives of older people locally:

- 1) A civic culture that respects and includes older people.
- 2) A Council that regularly seeks the views of older people and reflects their opinions in policy developments.
- 3) Well-maintained and well-lit pavements.
- 4) Improved repair and renewal of uneven pavements, and visible enforcement of litter laws.
- 5) Increased attention to gully and drain cleansing and treatment of footpaths in icy weather.
- 6) Public buildings that are fully accessible to people with disabilities.
- 7) Improved bus travel with the use of smaller vehicles for routes off the main roads. Ensuring all bus drivers are more passenger focused and wait for older people to be seated before starting off.
- 8) Housing integrated in the community that accommodates changing needs and abilities, as people grow older.
- 9) Friendly and personalised information in plain language instead of automated answering services.
- 10) Sufficient and well signed public toilets that are clean, secure and accessible by people with disabilities.

- 11) Sufficient public seating that is well situated, well maintained and safe.
- 12) Encouraging commercial premises to make their toilets available to the general public.

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, and the Executive recommendations thereon, be approved.⁴

(iv) Post Offices

It was moved by Cllr Gillies and seconded by Cllr Brooks that:

“This Council instructs the appropriate officers to open discussion with the Post Office on the possibility of the Council taking over the running of the Fulford, Haxby Road, Micklegate and Clifton Green Post Offices and in so doing safeguard these valuable community assets. A report on the discussions to be brought back to the next Ordinary meeting of full Council. Furthermore, this Council expresses its dismay at our Labour Member of Parliament for failing to support the retention of Post Offices in the recent Commons debate.”

Cllr Aspden then moved, and Cllr Vassie seconded, an amendment to the above motion, as follows:

In the first sentence:

before *‘taking over’*, insert *‘either’*

after *‘Clifton Green Post Offices’*, insert: *‘or entering into partnership arrangements aimed at sustaining at least some basic SPO facilities in these areas.’*”

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

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“This Council instructs the appropriate officer to open discussion with the Post Office on the possibility of the Council either taking over the running of the Fulford, Haxby Road, Micklegate and Clifton Green Post Offices or entering into partnership arrangements aimed at sustaining at least some basic SPO facilities in these areas, and in so doing safeguard these valuable community assets. A report on the discussions to be brought back to the next Ordinary meeting of full Council. Furthermore, this Council expresses its dismay at our Labour Member of Parliament for failing to support the retention of Post Offices in the recent Commons debate.”

Cllr Scott then moved, and Cllr King seconded, a further amendment to the amended motion, as follows:

“Delete the second sentence and substitute the following:

'Council recognises that these latest closures are difficult for the communities affected as they come on top of the previous cuts made by the last Conservative government of 3,542 branches.'

In the third sentence:

- after 'dismay', insert: *'that the Conservative motion before Parliament failed to guarantee continued subsidies to maintain the Post Office Network and recognise the hard work of'*

delete 'at' and substitute 'the', then insert: *'City of York'*

delete *'our Labour'*

delete *'for failing to support'* and insert: *'in trying to retain'*

delete *'the retention of'*

delete *'in the recent Commons debate'* and insert: *'under threat in York'*.

Insert a fourth sentence, as follows:

'Council requests that a report is brought back to the Council meeting of June 2008 and that the Chief Executive communicates with the Post Office informing them of the intentions of the City of York Council so that there is no immediate disposal of the aforementioned premises'."

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

The motion, as amended, was then put to the vote and was declared CARRIED unanimously and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as amended by Cllr Aspden's amendment, be approved.⁵

(v) Neighbourhood management

The following motion, which had been referred to Council by the Executive on 26 February 2008, was formally withdrawn by Cllr Scott, with the consent of Council:

"Council believes that residents should have the ability to influence the local provision of services. It recognises the importance of Neighbourhood Management and the need to link the Local Strategic Partnership and Local Area Agreement to neighbourhood initiatives rather than imposing decisions from the top. By listening to the local community, services are made more responsive whilst at the same time promoting democracy and participation.

Council proposes an approach to community leadership and neighbourhood management that recognises the key role that local councillors have to play in leading and inspiring communities to take pride in improvements that are driven by residents themselves. Current thinking demands that local councils step back from the traditional role of service provider and instead provide increasingly localised services that don't assume ownership by the Council but whose development has been shaped by local residents. It recognises that one size doesn't necessarily fit all. We believe that this Council must drive service improvement by empowering, building confidence and supporting residents. This will increase democratic participation."

(vi) Web-Casting Council Meetings

Cllr Scott moved, and Cllr Alexander seconded, that:

“Council notes the increasing use of technology by public institutions to communicate with the public. Such developments can be evidenced in every public sector organisation in the country. Mainstream political parties have taken advantage of new forms of communication such as YouTube and MySpace websites, as well as social networking websites such as Facebook and Bebo.

Council believes that technological developments in the public sector should not be limited to exercises such as consultations and voter registrations. The public should be given every opportunity to engage with the decision-making process and, more specifically, meetings of Full Council. This could open up the decision-making process to a whole new section of the local population, making it more inclusive and transparent. Not only will this enable the public to witness elected Members debating local issues, it could also prompt better communication between councillor and constituent, strengthening local democracy.

To this end, Council requests that:

- 1) Officers prepare a report on the feasibility of web-casting meetings of Full Council, as well as other Council meetings. The report should consider:
 - The various options, from contracting outside services to providing services ‘in house’.
 - The cost effectiveness of such an exercise, based on overall cost against numbers likely to view web-casts from outside City of York Council.
 - The feasibility of recordings being placed on the Council’s website and other hosting websites.
- 2) Officers present this report to the Executive not later than 17 June, in order that the issue can be referred to the 30 June meeting of Full Council.”

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion be approved.⁶

(vii) Armed Forces Covenant and Gurkha Soldiers

Cllr Firth moved, and Cllr Aspden seconded, that:

“Council notes:

- 1) There is a major concern from the armed forces, local residents and the country as a whole, that the covenant between the armed forces and the government has been systematically destroyed over recent years, resulting in over-commitment of our limited forces, inadequate equipment and a total lack of quality, specialist medical care for servicemen.
- 2) York has a long-standing and important affiliation with the army and is currently home to a large number of Gurkha soldiers and their families.

The recent decision to stop retired Gurkha servicemen from remaining in the UK and receiving desperately needed medical treatment is a disgrace and should be rescinded.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Defence, and to the four MPs for the City of York Council area to request that the government affirms its commitment to the covenant with the armed forces, and to call for an end to the immoral and divisive treatment currently suffered by retired Gurkha soldiers."

At 9:30 pm, the meeting was adjourned to enable submission of a revised version of an amendment to the above motion of which notice had been given by Cllr King.

At 9:50 pm, the meeting was reconvened and this item was deferred pending consideration of agenda item 7 (Minute 85 refers).

At 10:10 pm the guillotine fell and the following revised amendment, with Council's consent, was deemed to have been moved and seconded without debate:

"Delete paragraph 1 after '*Council notes*' and replace with the following two paragraphs:

- *That many present and former York residents have served the City and the Country by becoming members of the Country's armed forces and thanks them for that service.*
- *That currently there is significant concern, as expressed by the Royal British Legion campaign, that the covenant between the Armed forces and the government has broken down over recent years and concern also that the Armed Forces are involved in too many fields of operation, resulting in concerns over conditions of service.'*

In the second paragraph:

- Delete the number '2' and insert before 'York' '*Council also notes that.*'
- After '*their families*', insert: '*Council welcomes the changes made in 2005 to allow those Gurkhas discharged after June 1997 (when their base was changed from Hong Kong to the UK) to allow them to settle in this country. However Council believes that Gurkhas retiring prior to this date should also have the right of settlement and to receive*'
- Delete the remainder of the sentence except for the words '*desperately needed medical treatment* and insert: '*considering their service for this country and calls on the government to make this further concession*'.

In the third paragraph:

- After '*area to*', delete the remainder of the sentence and substitute:
 - '*request that the government re-affirms its commitment to the covenant between the Armed Forces and those who serve in it*'
 - '*request that the MPs ensure that all Gurkhas, their families and dependents have the right to reside in this country as a right of service irrespective of their date of discharge and ensure that all non-UK nationals who serve in this country's Armed Forces receive the same pay and pensions as those they serve with and the right to bring their wives and families to Britain.*'"

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED

The motion, as amended, now read as follows:

“Council notes:

- That many present and former York residents have served the City and the Country by becoming members of the Country's armed forces and thanks them for that service.
- That currently there is significant concern, as expressed by the Royal British Legion campaign, that the covenant between the Armed forces and the government has broken down over recent years and concern also that the Armed Forces are involved in too many fields of operation, resulting in concerns over conditions of service.’

Council also notes that York has a long-standing and important affiliation with the army and is currently home to a large number of Gurkha soldiers and their families. Council welcomes the changes made by the Labour Government in 2005 to allow those Gurkha's discharged after June 1997 (when their base was changed from Hong Kong to the UK) to allow them to settle in this country. However Council believes that Gurkhas retiring prior to this date should also have the right of settlement and to receive desperately needed medical treatment considering their service for this country and calls on the Government to make this further concession.

Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Defence, and to the four MPs for the City of York Council area to:

- Request that the government re-affirms its commitment to the Covenant between the armed forces and those who serve in it.
- Request that the MPs ensure that all Gurkhas, their families and dependents have the right to reside in this country as a right of service irrespective of their date of discharge and ensure that all non-UK nationals who serve in this country's Armed Forces receive the same pay and pensions as those they serve with and the right to bring their wives and families to Britain.’

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

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion, as amended, be approved.⁷

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Arrange meeting with First York. | SC |
| 2. Action the responses as per Executive recommendations (Executive Minute 174, 26/2/08) | JB |
| 3. Write to Secretary of State and York MPs. | SC |
| 4. Refer motion to Social Inclusion Working Group and Inclusive York Forum. | LE |
| 5. Arrange discussions with Post Office and report to Council meeting in June 2008. | JB |
| 6. Investigate feasibility of web casting and report to Executive by 17 June 2008. | SA |
| 7. Write to Secretary of State and York MPs. | SC |

85. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

A written report was received from the Leader, Cllr Steve Galloway, on the work of the Executive. Cllr Galloway then moved, and Cllr Jamieson-Ball seconded, those minutes requiring confirmation from the Executive meeting on 8 April 2008, namely:

- Minute 198 – Review of Council’s Constitution

Cllr Gunnell then moved, and Cllr Looker seconded, an amendment to the above minute, as follows:

“After Recommendation (i), insert an additional Recommendation (ii), as follows:

‘(ii) Add to the list of Champions a further Champion, an Equalities Champion, to champion equalities within the City of York Council Organisation, the provision of its services and within the community at large.’

Re-number the current Recommendation (ii) to be Recommendation (iii).”

The above amendment was put to the vote, with the following result:

For – 20

Against – 20

The Lord Mayor then used her casting vote to vote against the amendment, which was declared LOST.

The original Executive minute was then put to the vote and was declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: That the above minute, and the recommendations of the Executive, be approved.¹

Action Required

1. Make the agreed revisions to the Constitution.

GR

86. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

A written report was received from Cllr Jamieson-Ball, the Executive Member for Corporate Services.

Notice had been received of five questions on the report, submitted by Members in accordance with Standing Orders. The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written answers to these questions. The questions and the written responses, as circulated to Members after the meeting, are set out below:

- (i) From Councillor Holvey

“Could the Executive Member provide more information on the turnaround time for processing new benefits claims?”

Reply

“Based on new figures made available this week, I am delighted to be able to announce that the average time for processing new benefits claims between April 2007 and March 2008 was 29 days. Not only does this better both the Council’s own target of 32 days and the national standard of 30 days, but it is also the fastest average processing time the Council has ever achieved.

I am sure all Members of Council will join me in thanking the staff involved in turning around a service that, 4 years ago, was taking some 73 days to process new benefits claims.

Furthermore, the provisional result for 2007/08 indicates that the Council is now averaging 13 days to process charges in circumstances notified by benefit claimants. Again, this figure betters the Council’s performance last year of 15 days and its own target of 14 days.

The improvements seen in both the time taken to process changes in circumstances and new benefits claims was acknowledged by the independent District Auditor, who noted in his Annual Audit Letter that, for the 2006/07 year, the benefits section showed significant improvement in its performance.

I believe that the achievements of the 2007/08 year in the benefits section demonstrate the continuation of this significant improvement.”

(ii) From Councillor R Watson

“How has the York Contact Centre improved the services it provides over the last year?”
target?”

Reply

“As noted in the report, the York Contact Centre is providing a significantly improved service to that which it was providing a year ago. For example, in March 2007 the percentage of calls answered in 20 seconds was only 46%. Over the last few months this has been averaging in the high 90s %. The overall percentage of calls answered has also significantly improved from the low 80% mark to average over 99% in the last three months – which included the peak period of Council Tax billing. Effectively, this means that the vast majority of the 1,000s of calls the Contact Centre receives each month are being answered quickly, with only a tiny number of customers abandoning their call.

This has been achieved through the introduction of new technology – like the voice recognition software – and changes to processes, such as identifying peaks and troughs in customer demand and tailoring work patterns around that. For the first time this year the Council was able, through the Contact Centre, to provide extended opening hours to manage the Council Tax billing process.”

(iii) From Cllr Looker

“Has the Executive Member for Corporate Services been entirely satisfied with the new system for tracking Members’ queries in the light of the training recently received by many Members?”

Reply

“Legitimate concerns have been raised about the new system, but I do remain satisfied that this is the right approach to take in dealing with Member enquiries. The implementation of the system has highlighted the need for all Member enquiries to be handled in a consistent fashion across all directorates, whereas the new system was only really designed to manage the services that have already been through the easy@york programme. As such, expectations for the new system could have been managed better.”

(iv) From Cllr Looker

“Could the Executive member comment, now that the 'Corporate Property Data Base' has gone live, whether the useage of the Barbican Auditorium is recorded in it and if not whether those leasing the premises will be required in future to provide that information, such as usage and opening dates, as a matter of public record?”

Reply

“In order to set the answer to this question in its full context, it is important for Members to understand that the Technology Forge Database is intended for use as the Council’s Corporate Land and Property Asset Register.

As such, it will record the following information:

- *The Council’s property ownership – including leases*
- *Capital valuations*
- *Ownership details*
- *Estate management information, including all leases – in and out*
- *Condition surveys*
- *Asbestos surveys*
- *Links to maps and Autocad drawings – including floor plans (incomplete)*

Because the Barbican Auditorium will be on a long lease the Council is only likely to hold limited information relating to the Council’s remaining responsibilities.

In future, it may be possible to look at developing a module for the Technology Forge Database to record information such as usage. However, the level of detail about usage has to be balanced with our ability to collect and maintain such information. The costs could be prohibitive.”

(v) From Cllr Looker

“Can the Executive Member for Corporate Services explain what is the up to date situation as regards sickness levels and are we expecting to see a real improvement?”

Reply

“It is anticipated that sickness absence levels in the Resources Directorate will be around 10.5 days for 2007/08 once March’s figures have been included. This is an unconfirmed provisional figure so must be treated with a degree of caution. Short term sickness is down to under 5 days for the first time in the last few years. The overall figure,

therefore, is down to the number of long term absences within the department. Most of these are the result of serious illness amongst a small number of staff."

87. QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 10(C)

Eighteen questions had been submitted to the Executive Leader and Executive Members Under Standing Order 10(c)(i).

The guillotine having fallen at this point, Members agreed to receive written answers to these questions. The questions and the written responses are set out below.

(i) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Pearce:

"At its meeting of 29 November, the Council approved nem con a notice of motion calling for the setting up of a task force to make proposals for practical steps to tackle the impact on longer term residents of students living in rented housing outside their campuses. The notice of motion also called for Council to join other university cities via the LGA to lobby central government to introduce new controls to enable councils to exercise control over changes of use from family housing to student lets through changes to planning or other legislation.

In three months' time, dandelion seeds will be blowing in the wind over Badger Hill from the overgrown gardens of vacated student houses in the summertime ghost streets. What progress has the Council made with these initiatives in the full three months since its November meeting?"

Reply:

"Since the motion was agreed, officers have focused on a number of ways to address the relevant issues, particularly in relation to studentification, which is a particular concern to residents of Badger Hill and other areas of the City where there is a high proportion of students residing in family dwellings in the community.

Firstly, a meeting took place between the University and CYC Councillors in January and it was agreed that setting up a "task force" to look into the issues relating to the condition of student accommodation may not be the best way forward, as a Voluntary Code already exists (involving the University, landlords and the Council).

However, it was agreed that a small group would be set up to discuss the specific issues raised in the Council motion.

This meeting is scheduled to take place after April when the initial results of the Private Sector Stock Condition Survey should have been received, so evidence from the survey could be linked to the perceived poor standards. This Voluntary Code meeting is expected to take place around 19th May.

Officers are addressing the issues of studentification through the Local Development Framework. An evidence base on studentification is

being produced, which would support the LDF process in York. This involves the following methodology:

- *Officers have been researching the methods employed by other local planning authorities in addressing the issues of student accommodation and exploring opportunities to ensure that communities do not become unbalanced as a result.*
- *The Strategic Housing Market Assessment, carried out by Fordhams Research, was published in June 2007 and Officers are currently considering how this Assessment can provide an input into the evidence base.*

It is anticipated that the issues of studentification and the evidence base will be reported to members in due course.

A letter regarding the issues raised in the motion has been sent to the responsible government Minister. A reply is awaited."

(ii) To the Executive Leader, from Cllr Moore:

"Would the Leader confirm when the new factory at Nestle will be officially opened?"

Reply:

"I understand that the new factory will be officially opened on 28th April."

(iii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

"Can the Executive Member explain what lessons have been learned from choosing the Salvation Army Citadel as the venue for the first week of issuing tokens and bus passes and will she ensure that the venue is not used for such an event in future?"

Reply:

"This question is incorrect as the use of the Citadel actually gave the Council an extra 2 weeks capacity which was used to validate entitlement to bus passes. No token issuing was carried out there. The normal 4 weeks distribution sessions are currently taking place at the Guildhall and in the Parishes.

It was felt prudent to have the extra 2 weeks as for the first time all bus passes had to be validated and renewed. The Citadel was booked before Christmas, only after establishing that no better location could be found either on Council premises or elsewhere.

The passes currently being issued are set to expire over a three year period, purposely to avoid repeating the stresses of the current upheaval, occasioned by a Central Government decision.

I would anticipate that in future years the normal distribution sessions at the Guildhall would be more than sufficient."

(iv) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:

"Would the Executive Member for City Strategy explain what action Officers are taking to ensure that correct timetable information is provided at all bus stops and at those locations identified by the

Council as information points following the closure of the Bus Information Office?"

Reply:

"The Council has already set up arrangements for a number of public facing contact points around the City to carry stocks of leaflets provided by bus companies. The responsibility for providing and maintaining stocks lies with the bus companies, although Council officers periodically monitor the situation and pro-actively encourage bus companies to replenish/replace leaflets as necessary. The Council also provides display cases at bus stops to provide bus operators with the opportunity to display information about their services. Information at City Centre stops and selected other key locations is provided and maintained by the Council. In addition the Council ensures timetable data is available on the "yorkshiretravel.net" and "transport direct" internet sites and is developing a network of electronic timetable displays around the City, including predictions of actual rather than scheduled arrival times. Additionally, the "Yournextbus" mobile phone text service is being launched, to provide access to this information in another convenient form. This is being introduced progressively, on a route by route basis. A review of arrangements for providing information about bus services in the City is a topic due to be considered by a joint Council and Operator Working Group, under the auspices of the Quality Bus Partnership."

(v) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Merrett:

"Would the Executive Member for City Strategy indicate the numbers of children being trained to cycle each year over the last five years, and the forward projection?"

Reply:

"Cycle training figures for the last 5 years are:

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07
Level 1 (64% of school roll year 5)			1,691	1,132	1,164
Level 2 (62% of school roll year 6)	1,688	1,348	1,356	1,325	1,143
Level 3 (of school roll year 7)	466	594	529	470	205 (12%)

There are no targets set for cycle training as it is dependent on schools requesting cycle training, however it is the intention to increase the numbers being trained year on year during the lifetime of LTP2. To that end we are currently working with almost all the schools in York (over 95%) to deliver cycle training.

The pool of available staff to deliver cycle training decreased but the situation has improved with an additional 10 cycle trainers recently recruited which means we will be able to increase the amount of cycle training this year. In addition new initiatives are being introduced i.e. interactive and quiz based, that will enable the council to engage with and deliver cycle training to more year 7 students."

- (vi) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Horton:
“What is the anticipated Final Cost (AFC) for the Moor Lane roundabout works split into CYC contribution and others?”

Reply:

“The final cost of the Moor Lane Roundabout scheme is anticipated to be £3.8m over the three years of the design, construction and defect liability periods all funded from the Local Transport Plan settlement. There are no other contributions which have been used to fund the scheme.”

- (vii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Simpson-Laing:
“Can the Executive Member for City Strategy explain why there has been slow progress in bringing forward York’s Local List?”

Reply:

“Members previously agreed to wait for the publication of the, then, imminent Heritage Protection Bill as the initial consultation stated that it would contain guidance on Local Lists. The Government then significantly delayed publication of the guidance and Officers therefore recently decided that we needed to move forward in the absence of this guidance. However the Draft Bill was subsequently issued on 2nd April 2008 and will, if approved, give us the opportunity to produce Local Lists which are fully in compliance with the Government’s requirements.

The Draft Bill says that if you want to have a Local List, and it is not mandatory, then you have to have a framework based on Government criteria. The 5 criteria are:- Local, Historic, Archaeological, Architectural and Artistic. Detailed guidance on the criteria has not yet been produced by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) or English Heritage. If we decide to proceed we will need to determine our policy and then go through the normal consultation process. I have asked Officers to bring a report forward on the implications of the Heritage Protection Bill in order to meet the DCMS for consultation responses on the Draft Bill by June 2008.

- (viii) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D’Agorne:
“Will the Executive Member please outline the timescales for City of York Council to respond to the outcome of the Highways PFI bid and work up an alternative strategy to address the backlog of outstanding maintenance work?”

Reply:

“Council officers will be getting feedback from DfT on the Expression of Interest bid in May. This feedback will help in forming a view about any further involvement with Highway Maintenance PFI projects in the future.

Discussions with procurement and financial specialists, as well as a leading contracting organisation, on procurement options and opportunities for York are already scheduled for next month. Also the

latest draft documentation on output specification contracts has just been obtained.

This will all enable a more considered and informed report to be brought to the Executive and it is expected that this will be before the end of July 2008

In the meantime existing external contracts and in-house service arrangements can continue, allowing sufficient time for a revised strategy to be approved and implemented.

I must emphasise that the PFI bid was our only opportunity to address the backlog. Without major extra funding the current budgets will only maintain the asset at its current levels and not allow any extra investment."

(ix) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D'Agorne:

"In the light of approval for Regional Funding for all three Park & Ride proposals, can the Executive Member outline the process for determining which other schemes will be cut from LTP2 over the next 3 years to provide the required 30% matched funding for these schemes?"

Reply:

"Members will be aware that our Major Scheme Bid for the provision of the Park & Ride Sites was successful. The DfT will provide funds for approximately 85% of the total cost of the schemes leaving us with 15% to find, not the 30% that the Councillor quotes.

This is approximately £3m and will be funded by capital receipts from the sale of the Askham Bar site, any appropriate developer contributions and the £1.325m allocation already included in the 5 year LTP2 programme to enlarge the Askham Bar site."

(x) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr D'Agorne:

"Can the Executive Member provide a report on progress towards achieving the air quality objectives within York's Air Quality Management Area and what work will now be undertaken to review demand management options to address growing traffic associated with new developments such as Hungate and the Foss Basin retail developments?"

Reply:

"I am surprised to get this question because Cllr Waller deals with Air Quality matters but nevertheless I will endeavor to answer it.

Any planning application has to be examined in relation to the Air Quality Action Plan and meet the requirements of that Plan. In addition planning applications in the above area have to be considered in the context of the Foss Basin traffic masterplan. The masterplan allows us to use developer contribution to fund a wide variety of measures, already identified, as and when development come forward.

I understand that the Air Quality Progress Report is due for submission to DEFRA shortly. An update on this work is on the provisional agenda for September's Neighbourhoods EMAP. There will also be information on the affiliation of two of our air quality sites into the national monitoring network. The report will also seek approval to

spend our anticipated Air Quality Grant allocation (to be determined by DEFRA sometime in the next few months)."

- (xi) To the Executive Member for City Strategy, from Cllr Hyman:
"Can the Executive Member inform Council of the outcome of the Access York bid to the Regional Transport Board?"

Reply:

"I am delighted that our bid for 3 new Park and Ride sites was supported by the Regional Transport Board and the bid approved. It is proposed to submit a report to the 22 April Executive providing details of the results of all of the bids to the Regional Transport Board which the City has an interest in, as well as the Park & Ride, were Hopgrove Roundabout, Yorcard and Regional Information Systems bids. The report will also indicate the next steps in the process and request authority to use contingency funds already allocated in the 2008/09 budget to progress the Access York bid to final approval."

- (xii) To the Executive Member for Children's Services, from Cllr Bowgett:
"I would like to ask the Executive Member for Children's Services, Cllr Carol Runciman, if she has seen the film 'Live Now, Drive Later' and, if so, if she will recommend that this film be shown to all children over the age of 14 in York schools?"

Reply:

"I was unable to attend the recent showing of the film, 'Live now, die later' but am aware of the contents. I will be happy to promote it in schools and I commend the hard work of all the young people who were involved in making it alongside the Press, who have actively promoted it."

- (xiii) To the Executive Member for Children's Services, from Cllr Hogg:
"Will the Executive Member give an update on the opening of the new Children's Centres around the City and let Council know what services for families it is planned to offer in them?"

Reply:

"The City of York has been developing its Children's Centres for some years. The city was included in Phase 2 of the national programme with a requirement to providing 8 such centres by April 2008. In October 2005, proposals were agreed to site the eight Children's Centre at the following primary schools - Hob Moor, Westfield, Carr, Clifton Green, Haxby Road, New Earswick, Tang Hall and St. Lawrence's Schools. There has been a lot of consultation and strong planning with partners, which has resulted in all 8 achieving national "designation" status by the April 08 deadline. Children's Centres are a means of delivering a range of integrated and locally based services to children aged 0-5 years and their parents/carers and the next two to open will be at Tang Hall and New Earswick.

Children's Centres offer information, advice and support to parents/carers, as well as early years provision, access to health care services, family support, outreach visiting, adult learning opportunities

and access to employment advice. The mix of services on offer will differ between Centres, reflecting the particular needs of individual communities.

Phase 3 of the programme will see a further 4 centres being designated in York by April 2010 and planning is underway to identify sites which "fit" with current arrangements and which will ensure that the offer of services for all 0-5 year olds and their families is provided across the city. The City of York has been developing its Children's Centres for some years. The city was included in Phase 2 of the national programme with a requirement to providing 8 such centres by April 2008. In October 2005, proposals were agreed to site the eight Children's Centre at the following primary schools - Hob Moor, Westfield, Carr, Clifton Green, Haxby Road, New Earswick, Tang Hall and St. Lawrence's Schools. There has been a lot of consultation and strong planning with partners, which has resulted in all 8 achieving national "designation" status by the April 08 deadline. Children's Centres are a means of delivering a range of integrated and locally based services to children aged 0-5 years and their parents/carers and the next two to open will be at Tang Hall and New Earswick.

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Phase 3 of the programme will see a further 4 centres being designated in York by April 2010 and planning is underway to identify sites which "fit" with current arrangements and which will ensure that the offer of services for all 0-5 year olds and their families is provided across the city."

- (xiv) To the Executive Member for Leisure and Culture, from Cllr B Watson:
"In view of his article in 'The Councillor' publication, would the Executive Member like to inform Council when he envisages his term of office to expire?"

Reply:
"2011"

- (xv) To the Executive Member for Housing Services, from Cllr Potter:
"Will the Executive Member explain to Council why Residents' Associations have not yet received a clear set of arrangements for on-going provision of skips or the proposed replacement for 2008/09 any why this situation has been on-going for at least a year?"

Reply:
"There was a delay in setting out the arrangements for the coming year due to increased health and safety issues that needed to be discussed with the provider, for example, asbestos dumped in skips, overflow and over filling of skips to unsafe limits etc. All of these issues impact on the potential options and costs."

Unfortunately the long term position regarding the provision of skips via Resident Associations Estate Improvement Grant has changed as a result of the contractor saying that they are unable to provide the previously agreed solution of manned box wagons as a result of health and safety concerns for their operatives.

Officers are working with the contractor to find a long term solution, however until a solution is reached the status quo will continue with skips being provided at the same frequency as previously agreed with the RA's.

As outlined in my written response, an update will be given to the Federation of RA's at their next meeting on the 17th April."

- (xvi) To the Executive Member for Adult Social Services, from Cllr Hogg:
"What progress, if any, has been made with the North Yorkshire & York PCT on the Long Term Commissioning Strategy for Older People's Services?"

Reply:

"I am pleased to be able to report that we have had three meetings of the Joint Strategic Integrated Commissioning Group. Terms of Reference for the Group have been agreed. A workplan has also been agreed around intermediate care, mental health services for older people, prevention and management of long term conditions. It is expected that a report on the work of the group will be presented to an EMAP in the summer."

- (xvii) To the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, from Cllr Orrell:
"Could the Executive Member give an update on the Cold Calling Zones in the City, and share any information that has been obtained on the review of the success of the programme?"

Reply:

*"I am grateful for the question from Cllr Orrell, and I hope that he can convey my thanks for the support given by the Chief Constable to the delivery of the Cold Calling Control Zones,
The council has surveyed the 442 properties in the initial 30th October 2007 launch of the zones. Of the 192 who returned the form by 13th March 2008, 125 (67%) felt less concerned about doorstep crime because of the zone, and only 4 (2%) felt more concerned. Some 29 had been cold called since the introduction of the zone but had felt able to deal with the situation due to the information supplied in the packs sent to residents. This degree of personal empowerment of some of our most vulnerable citizens is a tribute to the hard work of Trading Standards, and the Neighbourhood Police Teams, and I am sure that the councillor will join with me in thanking those staff for making the scheme work."*

- (xviii) To the Executive Member for Youth and Social Inclusion, from Cllr Ayre:
"Would the Executive Member report on the progress towards the Young People's Services for York?"

Reply:

“The City of York Council assumed responsibility for the Connexions Service previously delivered by the local sub regional partnership on 1st April 2008. When the Connexions Grant funding was transferred to the local authority on 1st April the new Young Peoples Services was established comprising of Connexions and the Youth Service, within Learning, Culture and Children's Services. The Council has a clear vision for localising services for children and young people age 0-19.

Young People's Services will deliver key services to young people aged 13-19, including the Youth Offer, Information Advice and Guidance (IAG), Targeted Youth Support and Positive Activities. It is the intention to co-locate Connexions staff and Youth workers in locality teams covering the North, West and South East of the city at Kingswater, Moor Lane, Fulford and the city centre young people's centre at Castlegate.

The new arrangements provide an opportunity for the new service to work in partnership to build upon existing good practice and explore new integrated approaches to providing positive activities, IAG and targeted support for children and young people.”

88. SCRUTINY - REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A written report was received from Cllr Blanchard, the Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC), on the work of the SMC since the last report to Council, on 24 January 2008.

89. ACTIVITIES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Minutes of the following meetings had been made available for Members to view on the Council's website:

- Association of North Yorkshire Councils - meeting on 14 January 2008
- Yorkshire and Humber Assembly – meeting on 7 February 2008
- Local Government Yorkshire and Humber – meetings on 22 November 2007 and 28 February 2008
- North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority – meeting on 10 December 2007
- Regional Transport Forum – meeting on 5 March 2008
- Pension Fund Sub-Committee – meetings on 14 November 2007, 7 December 2007 and 14 February 2008

No questions had been submitted to representatives on the above bodies.

90. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED: That Dr Alison Birkinshaw be appointed as a non-statutory co-opted Member of the Children's Services Advisory Panel (Further Education Representative), in place of Mr Mike Galloway.

Cllr Irene Waudby

LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.15 pm]

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CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in Guildhall, York on Thursday, 22nd May, 2008, starting at 11.00 am

Present: The Lord Mayor, Councillor Irene Waudby, in the Chair during the first part of the meeting, the Lord Mayor, Councillor Brian Watson in the Chair during the second part of the meeting, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

Horton
Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Galvin

CLIFTON WARD

Douglas
King
Scott

DERWENT WARD

Brooks

DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD

Holvey
Reid
Sunderland

FISHERGATE WARD

D'Agorne
Taylor

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker
B Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Firth
Hogg
R Watson

HESLINGTON WARD

Jamieson-Ball

HEWORTH WARD

Blanchard
Funnell
Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Bowgett
Crisp

HULL ROAD WARD

Cregan
Pierce

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Morley

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Hudson

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Moore □ Watt □ I Waudby

STRENSALL WARD

Kirk

WESTFIELD WARD

Steve Galloway
Sue Galloway
Waller

WHELDRAKE WARD

Vassie

Also in attendance: Honorary Aldermen J. Archer, B. Bell, Mrs. M. Bwye, C. Hall, C. Waite and K. Wood

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wiseman

[Councillor Irene Waudby in the Chair]

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

APPOINTMENT OF LORD MAYOR

2. Councillor Looker moved, Councillor Jamieson-Ball seconded and the Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Brian Watson of 97 Beckfield Lane, Acomb be elected Lord Mayor of the City of York for the ensuing municipal year.

QUALIFICATION OF LORD MAYOR

3. Councillor Brian Watson signified Acceptance of the Office of Lord Mayor of the City of York, subscribed the Declaration of such acceptance and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by law in that behalf.

APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFF

4. Councillor Cregan moved, Councillor Hyman seconded and the Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That Honorary Alderman David Wilde of 30 Badger Wood Walk, Badger Hill be appointed Sheriff of the City of York for the ensuing municipal year.

QUALIFICATION OF SHERIFF

5. Honorary Alderman David Wilde made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Sheriff for the City of York and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by law in that behalf.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

6. The Lord Mayor moved, Councillor Richard Moore seconded and the Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Irene Waudby of 43 St Mark's Grove, Rawcliffe be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

QUALIFICATION OF DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

7. Councillor Irene Waudby made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Lord Mayor for the City of York and took the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by law.

LORD MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

8. The Lord Mayor advised Council that he had appointed Lynn Comer to serve as his Chaplain during his year of office.

SHERIFF'S CHAPLAIN AND UNDER-SHERIFF

9. The Sheriff advised Council that he had appointed The Very Reverend Canon Michael Ryan as his Chaplain and Mr Graham Kay as his Under-Sheriff during his year of office.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING LORD MAYOR AND LORD MAYOR'S CONSORT

10. Councillor Waller moved, Councillor Gillies seconded and Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Lord Mayor and Lord Mayor's Consort for their services to the City during the past municipal year.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING SHERIFF AND SHERIFF'S LADY

11. Councillor Reid moved, Councillor Taylor seconded and Council unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Council express its sincere thanks to the outgoing Sheriff and Sheriff's Lady for their services to the City during the past municipal year.

FORMAL BUSINESS OF COUNCIL - ALLOCATION TO SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE, COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES 2008/2009

12. Cllr Steve Galloway moved, and Cllr Scott seconded, the appointment of an Executive, Leader and Executive Members, together with the allocation of, and nomination to, places on Committees, partnerships and outside bodies, as set out in Annexes B and C to Item 5 on the Council agenda.*

The Lord Mayor then announced that two options had been received for nominations to the Executive and Shadow Executive in addition to those nominations received for Committees, partnerships and outside bodies, as set out in Annex A to Item 5 on the Council agenda*. A vote was taken on each of those options, as follows:

Option A – a Liberal Democrat Executive and a Labour Shadow Executive.
25 Members voted in favour of this option, 20 voted against and 1 abstained.

Option B – a Labour Executive and a Liberal Democrat Shadow Executive.
20 Members voted in favour of this option and 26 voted against.

Option A was therefore declared **carried** by 25 votes to 20 and it was

RESOLVED: That allocation of seats to places for 2008/9 and those nominations to the Executive, Leader, Shadow Executive and remaining Committees, outside bodies etc be approved as set out under Option A above.

**Note: Annexes A, B and C to item 5 on the Council agenda can be found by clicking on the link below:*

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.asp?CId=331&MId=3072&Ver=4>

Councillor B Watson
LORD MAYOR OF YORK
[The meeting started at 11.00 am and concluded at 12.20 pm]

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1 **Report to Council 30th June 2008**

2 There have been five meetings of the Executive to report since the last ordinary
3 meeting of Full Council on 10th April. Whilst I have only been in office as Leader
4 since the 22nd May I am reporting on all of the meetings.

5 I must start by thanking my processor Cllr Steve Galloway for the work that he had
6 done in the previous five years as council leader, and for the support that he has given
7 me during the handover process.

8 Sustainability is a key theme of the administration and the Executive agreed a
9 Strategy and Implementation Plan for the council's Carbon Management Programme
10 which set out an ambitious target of reducing the council's non-housing carbon
11 emissions by 25% by 2013. This follows on from the council's commitment to the
12 Nottingham Declaration, baseline work achieved with the Energy Saving Trust which
13 then fed into a year's working with the Carbon Trust to develop the strategy.

14 The report included the creation of a Carbon Management Fund of £500,000 to assist
15 with the pump priming of projects to reduce carbon emissions. There will be an
16 annual report on the progress of the delivery of the programme.

17 A bid to the Regional Transport Board for Funding 3 new Park and Ride sites required
18 the investment of £164,000 from council reserves, but has been money well spent
19 given the support for investment of £26 million in sites at Askham Bar, A59 and
20 Wigginton Road. This will assist with transport links around the city, but in particular
21 at York Hospital. A decision by the Regional Transport Board on the Hopgrove
22 roundabout, a key bottleneck, has been deferred to July.

23 The Executive considered the final report from the Highways Ad-hoc Scrutiny
24 Committee. Whilst to some degree the report had been overtaken by events with
25 decision by the government not to award the PFI bid to York, the Executive did agree
26 to note the efficiencies and benefits gained through the PFI approach, that in the event
27 of the PFI being unsuccessful that the key issues identified should be taken in to
28 consideration when deciding on an alternative approach, that there had been an impact
29 on the repayments to the Venture Fund caused by the delays in implementing the
30 actions agreed as part of the Best Value Review, whilst agreeing that the delays in
31 implementing the actions agreed as part of the Best Value Review were necessary,
32 and that the total savings made in Highways Maintenance since the Best Value
33 Review are significantly higher than those identified thus demonstrating that there had
34 not been a financial loss to the council.

35 The Executive received a petition regarding the Balfour Street Play area and agreed
36 that there needed to be an area asset management review in the Leeman Road area
37 before a decision was made on sales of assets in the area. This has since been through
38 a call-in procedure and the Executive has agreed the recommendations from Strategic
39 Policy Panel that there should be note made of this resolution in the Capital
40 Programme.

41 A review of the protocol governing the political management of the council for the
42 municipal year 2008/09 has been undertaken with all groups being invited to submit
43 requests for review reports for the forthcoming year. These requests have been
44 included in an update, and allow for the allocation of limited officer time in dealing
45 with these reports.

46 Establishment of a board for the Golden Triangle Partnership covering Leeds,
47 Harrogate and York was supported by the Executive. The partnership assists people in
48 this area of high house prices onto the property ladder. The Executive Member with
49 responsibility for Housing will represent the city on this board, for which the minutes
50 will be made available on the intranet.

51 Results from the Residents Opinion Survey show that overall satisfaction with the
52 council has improved, and is above average in customer satisfaction with the way that
53 the Authority runs things. The results show a steady improvement across a wide
54 range of indicators thus sustaining a trend that has developed over the last 5 years.
55 The only indicator in the bottom 25% percentile – provision of sports and leisure
56 facilities – has improved by 3% on the previous year. It is anticipated that this will
57 further improve as the new swimming pools, refurbished concert hall and other
58 facilities become available over the next few years.

59 The Executive agreed a clear methodology for the allocation of LPSA2 reward grant
60 funding subject to more specific targets and milestones being included.

61 In response to the impact of the “credit crunch” and the record of achievement of the
62 York Credit Union in helping residents of the city to deal with debt the Executive
63 agreed to allocate the Union the residual £7,100 in the City Strategy fund for support
64 to Voluntary Organisations

65 As demonstration of the Executive’s commitment to progressing work that has been
66 done by the authority to improve social inclusion and equality additional resources
67 have been provided for the next two years to ensure compliance by the council with
68 government legislation in this field.

69 The gas servicing contract for the council owned homes in the east of the city has
70 been combined with the existing arrangement in the rest of the city to bring it in-house
71 with Neighbourhood Services which will help to secure service quality and value of
72 money on behalf of the council’s tenants.

73 A sustainable procurement policy was adopted by the Executive which will ensure
74 that the Council is buying in goods and services in the most environmentally
75 sustainable way, whilst continuing to ensure taxpayers receive value for money. As a
76 result of this new policy, the whole life costings of goods and services will be
77 examined, rather than just the up front costs.

78 Examples of sustainable procurement may include providing fair trade and organic
79 food in school meals; ensuring that vehicles have low emissions to improve air
80 quality; using green energy to reduce carbon emissions; decreasing the amount of
81 biodegradable waste and recyclable products going to landfill; and working with local
82 suppliers to improve economic prosperity and encourage environmentally friendly and
83 ethical work practices.

84 Officers have been kept busy responding to the government’s timetable for the
85 adoption of Local Area Agreements, and the revisions of the definitions of the
86 national performance indicators. The selection of these have been made through the
87 partnership boards of the Without Walls Local Strategic Partnership, with councillors
88 who are not members of the boards having workshops made available to guide them
89 through the process. Full Council will be asked to endorse the Without Walls
90 Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2025 “York-A City Making History” which
91 has been produced by the Partnership Boards.

92 Data protection is a topical issue, and the Executive adopted a revised Data Protection
93 Policy for the Council taking into account the latest legislation on electronic data,
94 with the understanding that there will be further legislation on paper held information,
95 and requested further member training in this area.

96

97

Cllr Andrew Waller

98

17/06/08

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MEETING	EXECUTIVE
DATE	3 JUNE 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS WALLER (CHAIR), STEVE GALLOWAY, SUE GALLOWAY, REID, RUNCIMAN, VASSIE AND WALLER (CHAIR)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR JAMIESON-BALL

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

7. 'YORK - A CITY MAKING HISTORY': YORK'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which asked them to endorse the Without Walls Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for 2008-2025, entitled 'York – A City Making History', and the Local Area Agreement (LAA) indicators for 2008-2011. The requirement to produce an SCS and a new version of the LAA had been introduced by legislation last October.

The SCS, attached as Annex A to the report, had been written as a document that could be used by partners to inform their own strategies and plans. Ideally, it would become the 'Masterplan' for York, signalling the intended future direction of the City and how future decisions and actions would be taken. It included references to the essential connection between the SCS and the Local Development Framework (LDF). The indicators selected for the LAA had been included and identified within the SCS. Full details, including baselines and targets where available, were set out in Annex B, with statutory attainment indicators shown in Annex C. A revised version of Annex B had already been circulated to Members and included in the on-line version of the agenda. A further revised version was circulated at the meeting and this version has now been incorporated in the on-line agenda.

Without Walls had approved the SCS and LAA on 29 April, with a recommendation that the documents be formally endorsed and adopted by the relevant bodies.

With reference to the comments of the Shadow Executive on this item, recommending that the Strategy be re-written, the Chair noted that both the LAA indicators and the SCS had already been through a long process through the Partnership Boards and were intended to be partnership documents.

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the Sustainable Community Strategy attached as Annex A to the report.

REASON: To ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy.

A Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.25 pm].

MEETING	EXECUTIVE
DATE	17 JUNE 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS WALLER (CHAIR), STEVE GALLOWAY, SUE GALLOWAY, JAMIESON- BALL, RUNCIMAN AND VASSIE
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR REID

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

16. URGENT BUSINESS - RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION ON BACK PARK PETITION

The Chair agreed to consider under Urgent Business a recommendation from the Strategic Policy Panel (SPP) in respect of a decision taken by the Executive (Calling In) on 13 May 2008 regarding the Back Park Petition. The matter was urgent because it needed to be considered in time to make a recommendation to the Full Council meeting on 30 June 2008.

The SPP had recommended that a report be prepared for Full Council, setting out appropriate options and recommendations in respect of the Balfour Street Play Area section of the land in question, and that no further action be taken until the Council's decision was known. The Executive approved this recommendation and accordingly it was

RECOMMENDED: That Full Council consider, at its meeting on 30 June 2008, a report setting out appropriate options and recommendations regarding the Balfour Street Play Area, and that no further action be taken until the outcome of that meeting is known.

REASON: So that a change can be made to the Capital Programme to record the view of the Executive.

A Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.35 pm].

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Council

30th June 2008

Joint Report of the Assistant Director (Property Services) and Assistant Director (Financial Services)

Balfour Street Play Area (Back Park)– Reconsideration of Decision on Back Park Petition

Summary

- 1 This report highlights the impact of removing the Balfour Street Play Area capital receipt from the capital receipts programme. It also provides options for ensuring that the council's finances are properly managed.

Background

- 2 The Executive of 17 June 2008 responded to a recommendation from the Strategic Policy Panel 9 June 2008, and further recommended, that Full Council consider, at its meeting on 30 June 2008, a report setting out appropriate options and recommendations regarding Balfour Street Play Area, and no further action be taken until the outcome of this meeting is known.
- 3 At the Strategic Policy Panel of 9 June 2008 Members considered a report concerning the referral of a decision made by the Executive (Calling In) on 13 May 2008, in respect of the Executive's original decision on 6 May on an item seeking their response to a petition about Back Park, which was presented to full Council in November 2007.
- 4 The report set out the decisions of the Executive and the Executive (Calling In), the reasons for the referral by Cllr Scott, as Leader of the Labour Group, and the powers and role of the Strategic Policy Panel (SPP) in dealing with the referral.
- 5 The Strategic Policy Panel recommended that the Executive ask Officers for a report to be prepared for the Full Council meeting on 30th June with appropriate options and recommendations regarding the Balfour Street Play Area and that no further action is taken until the outcome of that meeting is known

Information

- 6 The Council approved its Capital Programme for 2008/09 to 2010/11 on 21st February 2008. The capital programme is financed from a number of sources including from capital receipts from the sale of surplus Council owned assets. The capital receipts schedule for the approved programme included a receipt of £350k for the sale of Balfour Street Play Area. The overall capital programme showed a £500k funding deficit at the end of the 2010/11, once all known capital receipts had been taken in to account. It was envisaged that this shortfall would be funded from either miscellaneous sales that arise over the 3-year programme, greater than expected

receipts from sales already identified or, as a last resort, from using the Council's "prudential" borrowing powers. The latter option would have had an annual revenue impact on the Council's budget of £45k per annum from 2011/12 if the full £500k shortfall remained.

- 7 The capital programme is constantly monitored, and it has been identified as part of the 2007/08 outturn position that the capital receipts position has appeared to have improved, with the forecast deficit of £500k now been projected as a surplus of almost £200k, mainly due to better than expected receipts being achieved. However, it is important to note that this surplus is predicated on achieving receipts of almost £28m over the next 3 years from the sale of 30 assets with an average value of over £900k. Failure to achieve a small number of these sales will result in a shortfall in the funding position on the programme.

Options

- 8 If the decision is to remove Balfour Street Play Area from the capital receipts programme there are a number of options
- a. Reduce the capital programme by the size of the budgeted receipt (£350k).
 - b. Identify additional receipts of an equivalent value to replace the budgeted Balfour Street receipt.
 - c. Borrow the shortfall at a cost of £31.5k per annum.

Analysis

- 10 Option (a)

This would involve reducing spend on one of the Council's capital receipt funded schemes. Other than the rolling programmes the majority of the Council's receipts are used to match fund a number of projects and secure external funding, any reduction in contribution to these would see a corresponding reduction in the amount of external funding granted.

Option (b)

Receipts are generally tight, with the majority of easy sales already made. Future receipts are more likely to come from the integration and rationalisation of the Council's assets with the receipt generated being used to enable the integration. Any other potential capital receipts not included in the capital receipts programme have not been fully considered or consulted on.

Option (c)

The Council can borrow to invest in capital projects providing the level of borrowing is prudent, sustainable and affordable. The shortfall on the sale of Balfour Street of £350k is within the Council's prudential limits and this amount could be borrowed, although a revenue budget would have to be allocated to fund its repayment.

- 11 Based on the current projections there is forecast to be a £200k surplus so the removal of the £350k from the sale of Balfour Street will return the programme in to a

deficit position of £150k, which is an improvement on the position when the budget was set."

Consultation

- 12 The comments and information provided by the Heads of Finance, Property and Legal Services have been included in this report.

Corporate Priorities

- 10 The capital programme provides investment in projects across the council supporting all of the council's corporate priorities.

Implications

- 11 The following information is provided:

- **Financial**

The balancing of capital receipts and expenditure is becoming more and more difficult to achieve. Any decision to amend this balance is not without risk.

- **Human Resources (HR)**

- 12 There are no HR implications.

- **Legal**

- 13 There are no Legal implications.

- **Crime and Disorder (C & D)**

- 14 There are no C & D implications.

- **Information Technology (IT)**

- 15 There are no IT implications.

- **Property**

- 16 Potential receipts have an estimated value of £28m over the next 3 years from the sale of 30 assets with an average value of over £900k. Many of these receipts have been identified as high risk and failure to achieve a small number of these sales will result in a shortfall in the funding position on the programme.

Risk Management

- 17 The current condition of the property market will increase the risk of not achieving the estimated level of capital receipts identified in this report.

Recommendation

- 18 Members are asked to re-consider the Executive decision to retain the Balfour Street Play Area site within the capital receipts programme.
- 19 If a decision is made to remove this site from the capital receipts programme, Members are asked to consider the options identified and analysed in this report for managing that financial situation.

Reason: To ensure the effective management of the council's capital resources

Contact Details

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Report Approved Date

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

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Wards Affected:

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

30 JUNE 2008 COUNCIL

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES

ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES

DAY SERVICE RE-PROVISION

Huntington Road Day Centre closed in May 2008. Currently the Yearsley Bridge Day Centre is providing a service for a small number of more severely disabled people who need access to the hydrotherapy pool. This will continue until the new pool at Oaklands is ready for use.

To enable those who used these day centres to access facilities in the community progress has been made on creating a network of Changing Places in York where disabled adults can be changed in dignity. The first was opened at Acomb Library, the second has opened in Walmgate and a further three are planned.

Working across departments with Leisure many of those who attended Yearsley and HRDC are now able to access the special facilities at Oaklands Sports Centre. Oaklands Sports Centre is the first in the country to gain the Inclusive Fitness Award.

The reprovision of day services has been a major project for the department and I would like to congratulate all staff involved for the professional manner in which they have handled this sensitive issue.

SICKNESS LEVELS

There has been a 30% reduction in the level of the FTE days lost through sickness in the department. This will have a significant impact on our ability to provide services.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

The annual survey organised by CSCI, which last year covered equipment services, showed that 96% of customers were satisfied with the equipment or minor adaptation which they had requested. The customer finance team are also to be congratulated on securing £990,000 in benefits for their customers.

We now have nearly 3000 people on the Warden Call service. Telecare has enabled us to install over 250 bogus caller alarms in the homes of vulnerable residents and the £225k provided in the budget for telecare will enable more people to live at home independently.

LONG TERM COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Following the extensive consultation with older people locally and with partners, work is now underway to commission services in line with future needs. The survey confirmed that older people see alternative, accessible housing as a key to their independence as well as support for every day activities. As a first step in

implementing the findings from this survey, it has been agreed to commission an additional handyperson scheme for York through the Supporting People programme.

YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE PCT

Work has now started on four joint commissioning projects covering intermediate care and assistive technology, older people with mental health problems, preventative services in the community and support to people with long term health conditions. The PCT have indicated that, subject to their financial position, they will be in a position to invest in new services in 2009/10.

A new emergency card for Carers has been launched. Additionally a new partnership board covering those with a Physical Disability or Sensory Impairment will be established later this year.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

This is a joint policy statement with health partners and signals, amongst other things, the move to personalise social services. We will be required to offer more people the chance to manage their own individual budget and to commission a range of community support services from which people can select.

COMPUTER SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

The new computer system to replace the old York specific system is now being successfully implemented in phases. There has already been a reduction in the number of paper files and administration and the second phase should see an improvement in terms of management reports and services to customers.

HOUSING

ASSET MANAGEMENT

388 properties have benefited from one or more element of the Tenants Choice programme

352 rewires
339 kitchens
251 bathrooms
135 heating systems

A further 35 heating systems were installed under the Heating Only programme making 170 planned heating systems installed in total. A further 880 boilers were replaced through reactive repairs.

In 2007/08 90% of urgent repairs were completed within Government timescales compared with 83.56% in 2006/07.

STRATEGY AND ENABLING

The Homebuy Plus scheme, developed with Golden Triangle partners, has helped 20 households in York in 07/08 to buy a home. A further 12 households have been assisted through the government Homebuy scheme.

The Golden Triangle Partnership is working up a Mortgage Rescue proposal which it is hoped will offer a flexible package of solutions from short term funding to provide a “breathing space” before homes are voluntarily sold to longer term equity loans that enable households to remain living in their home.

39 affordable family homes will be delivered on the 5th Avenue, Victoria Way, Dane Avenue, Morritt Close and Chapelfields sites and work is already underway.

A partnership with North Yorkshire and York PCT and York Housing Association has developed 8 independent living flats for adults with mental health problems.

Work is progressing on the Private Sector Renewal Strategy with the full report due in the autumn.. This will provide the base line data for future investment and help set priorities.

TENANCY SERVICES

There has been a significant improvement in the void turn round times for empty homes. In 2006/07 the void period averaged 3.55 weeks and in 2007/08 the average void time was 2.77 weeks and is the lowest level this century.

The Tenancy Enforcement team continue to provide an invaluable service in tackling the most serious issues of anti social behaviour in council accommodation. In 2007 they were directly involved in dealing with 67 cases and evicted 21 households for anti social behaviour.

Performance on rent arrears recovery continues to improve. In 2007/08 the rent collected as a % of the debit had improved to 97.86% and the arrears as a % of the debit was at 2.27%. The figure at the end of the financial year was 575k compared with 4 years ago when the debt was in the region of £1.5 million.

The department was successful in its bid for refurbishment works to be carried out for the Travellers Sites with joint funding obtained from GOYH. This work has now been completed with improvements to electric supply, pitch size and refurbishment of utility buildings at Clifton.

Regrettably a Places for Change bid, supported by all political parties and partners. submitted to CLG to provide a foyer type scheme for young homeless 16-17 year olds was unsuccessful.

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Scrutiny Report to Council

Report of Chair, Scrutiny Management Committee

Since the last report to Council, there have been two meetings of Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC).

In April 2008, the Committee received an update on the work of Health Scrutiny Committee and the then Chair of that Committee, Councillor Funnell, attended the meeting to give an overview. The Committee learnt that Health Scrutiny was now preparing a structured work plan and looking to focus on one or two particular areas of review in addition to its ongoing role in relation to the Annual Health Check. At the same meeting, Members also received a study on the feasibility of undertaking a review, registered by Councillor Hogg, in relation to the vision developed in 2007 for a Cultural Quarter for York, linking the city centre with development sites in York North West. Members agreed to proceed with a review of the topic, agreed a remit and set up an Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee to consider that review. The Sub-Committee first meets on 21 July 2008.

At its meeting in June 2008, the Committee considered a report on resources currently available to support the scrutiny function, as previously requested and noted that work was underway in relation to a review report on scrutiny and its effectiveness, in the wake of the recent CPA findings.

Education Scrutiny Committee

Since April Council, Education Scrutiny has completed its ongoing review in relation to school governors and is not about to present that final report to SMC and onwards to the Executive to consider implementation of appropriate recommendations. At its last meeting, the Committee focussed upon reviewing its work plan, monitoring progress in relation to previously agreed recommendations on extended schools provision and upon future areas for review. It has commissioned feasibilities on possible new topics in relation to extended schools (further to the review in 2006 and looking at community lettings) and on progress with regard to the introduction of 14-19 year old specialised diplomas.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Since April Council, the Health Scrutiny Committee has met once on 16th June 2008. At this meeting they received an information report on Local Involvement Networks (LINKs). Arrangements for a host organisation have now been completed and the contract was awarded to North Bank Forum (NBF). The feasibility of holding a facilitated workshop with the host (NBF) is currently being explored.

At the same meeting a remit for a review regarding dementia and secondary healthcare was proposed and agreed. A scoping report is being prepared and will

be presented to Members at the next formal meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee on 7th July 2008.

Prior to the next formal meeting an informal training session for Members will be held. This will allow Members to receive information from, amongst others, the Primary Care Trust, York Health Group, York Ambulance Service and the Acute Trust.

Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committees

Barbican

Since April 2008, this Sub-Committee has been gathering evidence in relation to circumstances surrounding the sale of the Barbican Centre in 2003. A final report needs to be put together summarising the findings and any appropriate recommendations for the future. Members anticipate they will be presenting their final report to SMC over the summer months.

Traffic Congestion

Since April 2008, this Sub-Committee has been amalgamating and analysing information and key findings in order to be able to present a report to SMC and subsequently the Executive on some identified key broad strategic options for dealing with the issues surrounding traffic congestion.

SMC and the Executive have now approved the Sub-Committees application for funding to undertake extensive resident consultation on traffic congestion in York and on the Sub-Committees suggestions for broad strategic options. That consultative exercise now needs to be carried over the summer and the responses will be used to inform Members' findings and the recommendations they present to SMC and the Executive in due course.

**To be presented by Councillor John Galvin
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee**

Council – 30 June 2008

Outside Bodies Reporting to Full Council**Revised List**

- Association of North Yorkshire Councils
- Economic Development Partnership Board
- Local Government Yorkshire & Humberside
- North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- Pension Fund Sub-Committee
- Police Authority
- Quality Bus Partnerships
- Regional Transport Forum
- Safer York Partnership
- Visit York
- Without Walls Partnership
- York & North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership
- Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
- York NHS Foundation Trust

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Membership of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

Committees / Council bodies

Audit and Governance Committee

To replace Cllr Bowgett with Cllr Simpson-Laing as 2nd Labour sub

City Strategy Advisory Panel

To replace Cllr Simpson-Laing with Cllr Bowgett as 1st Labour sub

Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion Advisory Panel

Labour: To remove Cllr. Douglas, to change Cllr Blanchard to 1st sub and to add Cllr King as 2nd sub

Standards Committee

To appoint the following Independent Members:

Mr A L Dixon

Mr M R Hall

Mr D Wilson

Children & Young People's Services Advisory Panel and Education Scrutiny Committee

To appoint the following as Statutory Co-opted Members of the above Panel and Committee and to note the expiry of Mr J Bailey's membership:

Mr W Schofield

Parent Governor Representative

Mrs L Branton

Parent Governor Representative

East Area Planning Sub-Committee

To appoint Cllr Firth in place of Cllr Waudby

Social Inclusion Working Group

To appoint Sarah Fennell as a Community Group Non-voting Co-opted Member representing the Sexual Orientation equality strand, in place of Karen Roberts.

Appointments Panel – Head of Audit

To replace Cllr Healey with Cllr Gillies as the Conservative Member

To appoint Cllr Looker as the Labour Member

Partnership Bodies

Inclusive York Forum

To appoint Cllr Looker as the Labour Group representative, in place of Cllr Scott

Ofsted Sub-Group

To replace Labour subs Cllr. Looker and Potter with Cllrs. Merrett and Funnell

Outside Bodies

Local Government Yorkshire and Humber

To appoint Cllr Waller as the Council's representative

[Note: the appointments approved at Annual Council for the 'Local Government Yorkshire and Humber Executive Board should be disregarded, as individual local authorities cannot make appointments or nominations to the Board.]

Science City York

To appoint the Chief Executive, Bill McCarthy, as the Council's Officer representative on the Board, in place of the Director of City Strategy, Bill Woolley.

York Theatre Royal Board

To replace Cllr. King with Cllr. Crisp

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation – Disciplinary & Appeals Sub-Committee

To appoint Cllrs Runciman and Looker , in place of Cllrs Moore and Horton

Consultation Meetings with Looked After Children "Show Me That I Matter"

To add Cllr. Gunnell as Labour Sub