

**Notice of meeting of
Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

To: Councillors Riches (Chair), Watt (Vice-Chair), Burton, Levene, Semlyen, Hyman, D'Agorne and Potter

Date: Tuesday, 13 March 2012

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

- 1. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 3 - 4)
At this point in the meeting Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda. A list of general personal interests previously declared are attached.
- 2. Minutes** (Pages 5 - 12)
To approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting of the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on **24 January 2012**.
- 3. Public Participation**
It is at this point in the meeting that members of the public who have registered their wish to speak on an item on the agenda or on an issue within the Committee's remit can do so. The deadline for registering is **Monday 12 March 2012 at 5.00 pm**.

**4. 2011/12 Finance and Performance Monitor (Pages 13 - 24)
3 Report**

This report provides details of the 2011/12 forecast outturn position for both finance and performance in City Strategy and Housing Services.

**5. Update on the implementation of (Pages 25 - 30)
recommendations arising from the Water
End Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)**

This report presents Members with an update on progress made in implementing the recommendations arising from the Water End Councillor Call for Action.

**6. Update Report- 'Reducing the Carbon (Pages 31 - 36)
Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector'
Scrutiny Review**

At their last meeting Members were verbally informed, under the work plan item, that the 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector' scrutiny review had been postponed. This report sets out a summary of the information received by the Task Group working on the review and the reasons for postponement.

7. Work Plan 2012 (Pages 37 - 38)

Members are asked to review the Committee's work plan for 2012.

8. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer:

Name- Judith Betts

Telephone No. – 01904 551078

E-mail- judith.betts@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

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- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
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Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

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The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Cabinet (39 out of 47). Any 3 non-Cabinet councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Cabinet (or Cabinet Member Decision Session) agenda. The Cabinet will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Cabinet meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

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MEETING OF ECONOMIC AND CITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda item 1: Declarations of interest

The following Members declared standing personal interests.

Councillor D'Agorne- Employee of York College

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	ECONOMIC & CITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	24 JANUARY 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS RICHES (CHAIR), BURTON, LEVENE, MCILVEEN (SUBSTITUTE FOR COUNCILLOR SEMYLEN), HYMAN, STEWARD (SUBSTITUTE FOR COUNCILLOR WATT), D'AGORNE AND POTTER
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS SEMYLEN & WATT

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests, other than the standing declarations that they might have in the business on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

36. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 December 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

37. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

38. REPORT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, HOUSING AND ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES (HOUSING ASPECT OF THE PORTFOLIO)

Members received a report from the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services on the Housing aspect of her portfolio.

Questions from Members to the Cabinet Member focused on a number of issues such as;

- The numbers of Empty Homes in the city.
- Cost for supply of electricity to travellers pitches on the Osbaldwick site.
- Under-occupancy rates in Council owned properties.
- The localization of Council Tax Benefits.

In response to the questions raised by the Committee, the Cabinet Member reported that the number of long term empty homes (over 6 months) in the city had dropped from 381 to 183 there were a number of reasons for this; from proactive work undertaken by the Housing Team and a steady rate of members of the public reporting empty properties to the Council. One Member stated that the Council could only investigate empty homes if they were causing a nuisance.

Regarding electricity supply to travellers pitches, Officers reported that capacity problems had been encountered on the Osbaldwick site, and this had led to the hire of a generator at a significant cost. The Committee were informed about the previous method of electricity being supplied to the Local Authority who would then sell this on to travellers for use on their pitches. It was reported that new electricity suppliers had installed individual supplies and that the relationship was now a direct one between the electricity suppliers and the travellers.

In relation to under occupancy rates, the Council had worked in partnership with a number of Housing Associations to develop a downsizing scheme which had been very successful. One Member suggested that a future stumbling block to such schemes could be the higher rent levels for those looking to downsize and move into Housing Association properties.

In response to some Members' concern about Council Tax Benefits, Officers stated that they would circulate information provided to the Cabinet to the Committee.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Cabinet Member for her report and attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: In order to update the Committee on the Housing aspect of the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services portfolio

39. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE NEWGATE MARKET SCRUTINY REVIEW

Members received a report which updated them with information on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Newgate Market Scrutiny Review.

Officers gave an update on implementation of recommendations from the review, but prefaced this by informing Members that the processes for dealing with the recommendations were long term.

Members were informed that as a result of the recommendations raised by the scrutiny review;

- A second compactor had been installed in order to reduce cardboard waste produced in the market.
- In regards to unauthorised parking that a traffic permit scheme was in the process of development.
- That later opening hours for the market had been trialled over the Christmas period (to coincide with those of the adjacent Festive Fayre in Parliament Street) brought only limited success and would need more 'buy in' from traders if it was to be repeated.

Some Members felt that the format for Officer updates were not practical and suggested that a summary report be produced at a later date.

Officers suggested to Members, that they could bring back an progress report to the Committee in September.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That a progress report be brought to the Committee's September 2012 meeting.

REASON: To raise awareness of those recommendations which have still to be implemented.

40. SIX MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Members received a report which provided them with an overview and update in relation to the major development and planning proposals at present.

Officers informed Members that unfortunately the report needed to be updated and informed Members that they would circulate a newer version after the meeting.

Questions from Members to Officers on the report included;

- If a planning application is received at Germany Beck, what could be the start date for development on the site.
- The timescale for access road construction from the A19 on to the Germany Beck site.
- Who would benefit from Section 106 monies provided by the developers of housing on the former Terry's site.

It was reported that an application for family housing at Germany Beck was likely to be received by April 2012. Developers were also hoping to be granted potential financial support from the government towards the cost of the access road construction, which would could take between six and nine months to build.

In response to a question about the use of Section 106 money, Officers informed the Committee that the contributions would be used on junction improvements and also donated to local schools.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: To raise awareness of major developments and planning applications in the city.

41. UPDATE ON MAJOR TRANSPORT INITIATIVES & ISSUES ARISING FROM THEM

Members received a report which provided them with an overview and updated them in relation to major transport initiatives in the city which were currently progressed.

Questions from Members to Officers included;

- If contracts for road improvements included penalties for late completion by contractors.
- Where the University cycle routes were being routed and if Field Lane would still be considered.
- Whether further information could be provided on the proposed new cycle route from Rawcliffe to the University via Clifton Moor.
- The coverage of 20 mph speed limit zones in the city and outlying areas.

In response to a question about the routing of University cycle routes, Officers replied that proposals were currently in development which took into account comments that had already been received but a cycle route was still being considered for Field Lane.

In response to a question about the coverage of 20 mph speed limits in the city and outlying areas, it was reported that as it was a manifesto commitment, Officers were pursuing the implementation of 20 mph speed limits in residential areas (subject to consultation). A policy was in development that would make it clear which roads were being considered. Officers stated that there had been some potential problems had been identified in trialling this in some of the village locations with the ability to able to reduce speeds and enforce them.

Members felt that the success of speed limits often needed to be accompanied by a change in attitudes. It was noted that if

current speed limits were not complied with, residents might question the usefulness of 20 mph zones.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: To keep the Committee up to date with progress.

42. WORK PLAN 2012

Members considered a report which presented them with the Committee's work plan for the forthcoming year.

Firstly , It was reported that the current scrutiny review on 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector' was currently on hold until further information on the 'Green Deal' was available. A more detailed report on why this had been postponed and what the next steps might be would be presented to the Committee at their March 2012 meeting.

Secondly, two suggestions emerged from discussion on other potential topics for scrutiny reviews, these were a topic related to Youth Unemployment and a topic on Economic Development and the role of Science City York.

In relation to Youth Unemployment, it was suggested that Members might wish to focus on how the Council worked with partners to maximise employment opportunities for young people in the city.

In relation to a topic on the role of Science City York's role in Economic Development, Members felt that more encouragement work needed to be done to attract people to York in order to maintain its status as a Science City.

It was suggested by the Scrutiny Officer that an extra meeting of the Committee be scheduled for the end of March or the start of April in order to consider further information in order to select which of the above two topics to progress to review.

RESOLVED: (i) That the work plan be noted.

(ii) That an additional meeting be added to the work plan and scheduled for late

March or early April in order to examine the suggested scrutiny review topics.¹

- (iii) That two sixth monthly update reports on Major Developments within the City of York Council and Major Transport Initiatives and Issues arising from them be added to the work plan.²
- (iv) That an update report on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Newgate Market Scrutiny Review be considered by the Committee at either their September or October meeting.³

REASON: To keep the Committee's work plan up to date.

Action Required

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. To organise an additional meeting. | JB |
| 2. To update the Committee's Work Plan | TW |
| 3. To update the Committee's Work Plan | TW |

Councillor J Riches, Chair
[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.35 pm].

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Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13th March 2012

Report of the Director of City Strategy

2011/12 Finance and Performance Monitor 3 Report

Summary

1. This report provides details of the 2011/12 forecast outturn position for both finance and performance in City Strategy and Housing Services.

Analysis

Finance – forecast outturn overview General Fund

2. The current outturn position within the City Strategy Directorate is a projected underspend of £-146k on a total net budget of £9,402k. The Housing General Fund has a budget of £1,173k and is currently forecast to overspend by £49k. Service Plan Variations by service plan are shown below:

	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
City Strategy Directorate			
Strategic Planning & Transport	4,911	4,292	-619
Planning & Sust. Development	1,724	1,910	+186
Director's Group	274	239	-35
Economic Development	2,244	2,189	-55
Property	512	573	+61
Service Review	-263	87	+350
Reduced Pay		-34	-34
Total	9,402	9,256	-146
Housing Services			
Housing General Fund	1,173	1,222	+49

Note: '+' indicates an increase in expenditure or shortfall in income
 '-' indicates a reduction in expenditure or increase in income

3. Details of the main variations by service plan are detailed in the following paragraphs.

Strategic Planning and Transport (£-619k)

4. Car Parking income is forecast to be £111k above budget. There is expected to be a saving of £220k saving in concessionary fares and £70k saving in Dial & Ride and taxicard usage.
5. There is an underspend of £78k on employee costs within school crossing patrols and transport planning where a number of posts were unfilled during the year, £65k saving in road safety and a further £55k saving from vacancies in the drainage section.
6. A review of Local Development Framework funding has resulted in a net saving of £20k.

Planning and Sustainable Development (£+186k)

7. The economic downturn has continued to have a significant impact income within the Planning Service. The planning income projected shortfall is £100k due to the numbers of major scheme applications. Income from building control is projected to be a further £110k below budget. Income from local searches is expected to be £40k below budget due to low activity in the housing market, also offset by £34k staff savings. There is a further £30k saving in the Major Development project team.

Director's Group (£-35k)

8. Savings from vacant posts £40k and an expected additional £45k Yorwaste dividend are offset by £50k additional cost of the waste PFI project.

Economic Development (£-55k)

9. There is a savings of £23k from a vacancy and £32k additional income from City Centre and markets.

Property Services (£+61k)

10. There is an additional £56k staff cost in relation to the facilities management review. Elsewhere, commercial property income is

expected to be £60k above budget but this is offset by £65k cost of properties held for resale.

Directorate Service Review (£+350k)

11. The directorate had an overall savings target of £814k. It has not been possible to deliver the full year savings due to the time required to implement and also one off redundancy costs have led to a projected overspend of £350k in 2011/12. The full year savings are anticipated to be made in 2012/13.

Pay Reduction

12. Staff are taking one day as unpaid leave, saving £34k.

Housing Services (£+49k)

13. The review of the Housing Services General Fund budgets indicates that the service will be £49k over budget, which is an improvement from the forecast overspend of £190k reported in the last review. There is a forecast overspend of £165k on building maintenance, £51k overspend on repairs to travellers sites offset by one-off mitigation of £167k elsewhere within housing services.

Finance Housing Revenue Account (HRA) - Non General Fund account

14. The working balance budget on the HRA is £9,252k and this first review indicates a net underspend of £216k, leaving a projected working balance of £9,468k. The variances include:
 - Overspends totalling £45k, the main area being a higher than forecast void level within the council housing stock.
 - Underspends totalling £261k, mainly due to a reduction in the negative subsidy payment due to a higher than forecast interest rate. There is also increased income from leaseholders and shops.

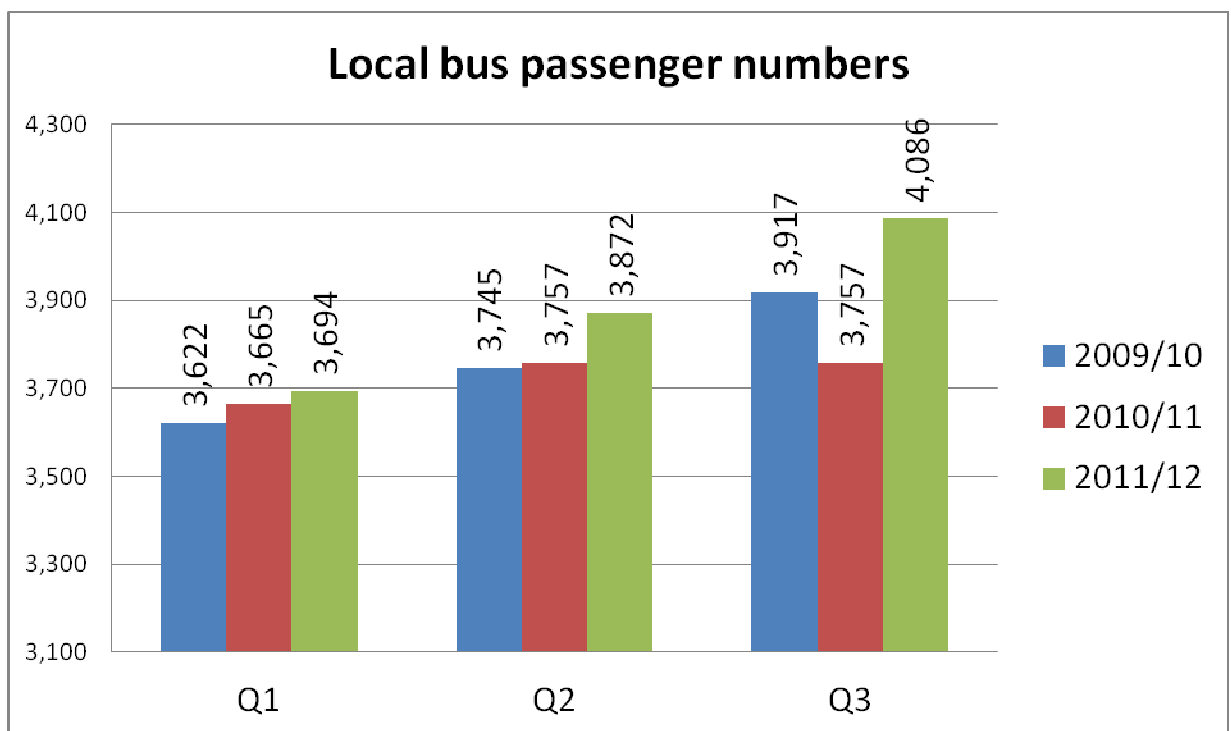
Performance – Monitor 3 Overview

Priority: Get York moving

15. Key Performance Headlines

- **Transport:** The number of passengers using Park & Ride services continues to increase and those using other bus transport has also now increased
- **Footstreets:** A vision for a car free city centre and the extension of areas and hours for foot streets has now been presented to Local Development Framework working group. Feasibility studies have now begun to develop the car-free centre proposals and extensions of the area and hours for footstreets.
- **Pedestrians & Cycling:** The programme for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) is currently being planned and will start from April to develop and improve York's Cycling and Pedestrian network. The Intelligent Travel York programme was launched to the general public in January.

16. **Transport:** Bus passenger numbers have increased by 9% in Q3 compared to the same period last year (4,086,429 compared to 3,757,029 in 2010/11). As a result, it is now expected that passenger numbers will meet the annual target of 15million. Park & Ride passenger numbers have also increased in Q3, by 11% when compared to Q2 (1,125,152 compared to 1,012,578).



17. **Parking:** The number of people using car parks is forecast to increase by 3% this year. From April to November this year 1,098,883 people used car parks.

Priority: Protect the environment

18. Key Performance Headlines

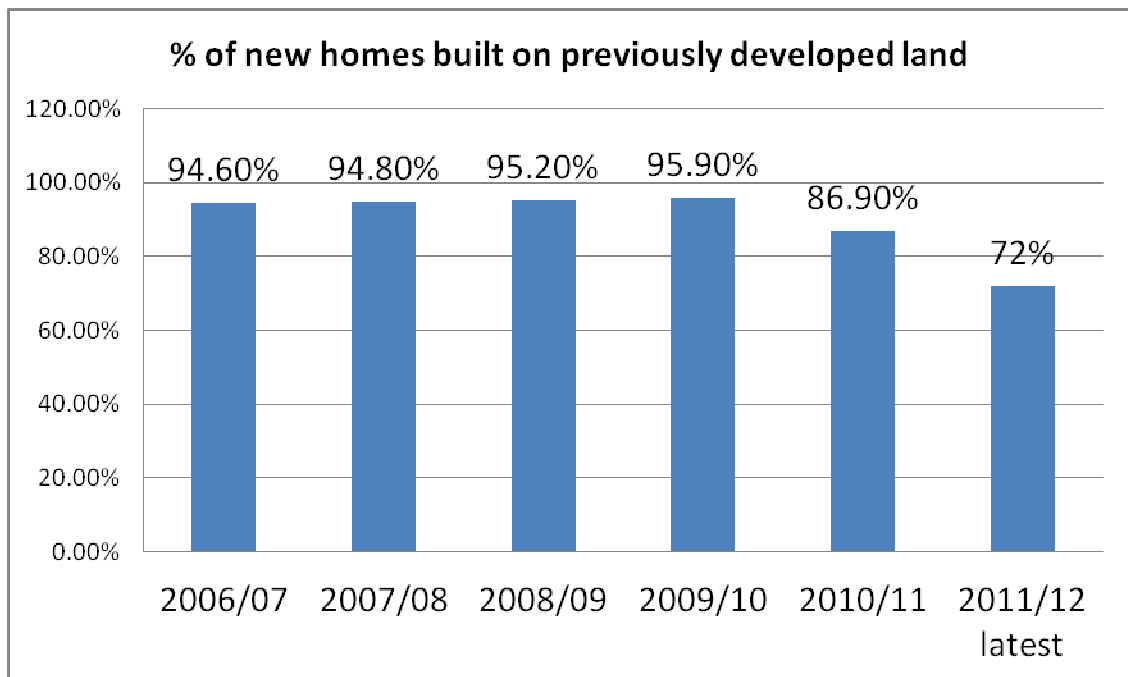
- Sustainable Development: New homes build on previously developed land continues to decrease this year, although part of the decrease can be attributed in definition for 'garden infill' development which is now regarded as Greenfield.

19. Key Progress Headlines:

- Carbon Footprint: Consultation has taken place with the core team on refreshing the council's carbon management programme and the findings have been presented to the Sustainable Development Board. This programme will drive the achievement of carbon reduction targets for the council and city.
 - Tree Strategy: Consultation on the Tree Strategy has been completed to inform Treemendous Project Plan, which will plant 50,000 trees in York.
20. *Reducing CO²*: Latest data for CO₂ per head of York's population shows a further decrease to 5.4 tonnes (2009), compared to 6.0 tonnes in 2008.

	2006	2007	2008	2009
York's CO ₂ per head of population (tonnes)	6.8	6.2	6.0	5.4

21. Sustainable Development: Latest data for new build housing completions on previously developed land in 2011/12 shows a perhaps unsurprising further reduction to 72% (compared to 92% for the same period last year (April to December 2010)). This was partly due to an amendment to Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3) in June 2010 regarding the definition of 'garden infill' development which is now regarded as Greenfield.



Priority: Create jobs and grow the economy

22. Key performance headlines

- *Cities Outlook Report 2012: The city is performing well in the current climate.*
- *Skills:* The report also highlights York's highly skilled workforce, with the city ranked seventh for workers skilled to NVQ4 or above and joint sixth for the lowest number of unqualified people.
- *Business start-ups:* Positive increase in business start-ups in 2011, which places York in a strong position for the largest increase in the region.

23. Key progress headlines

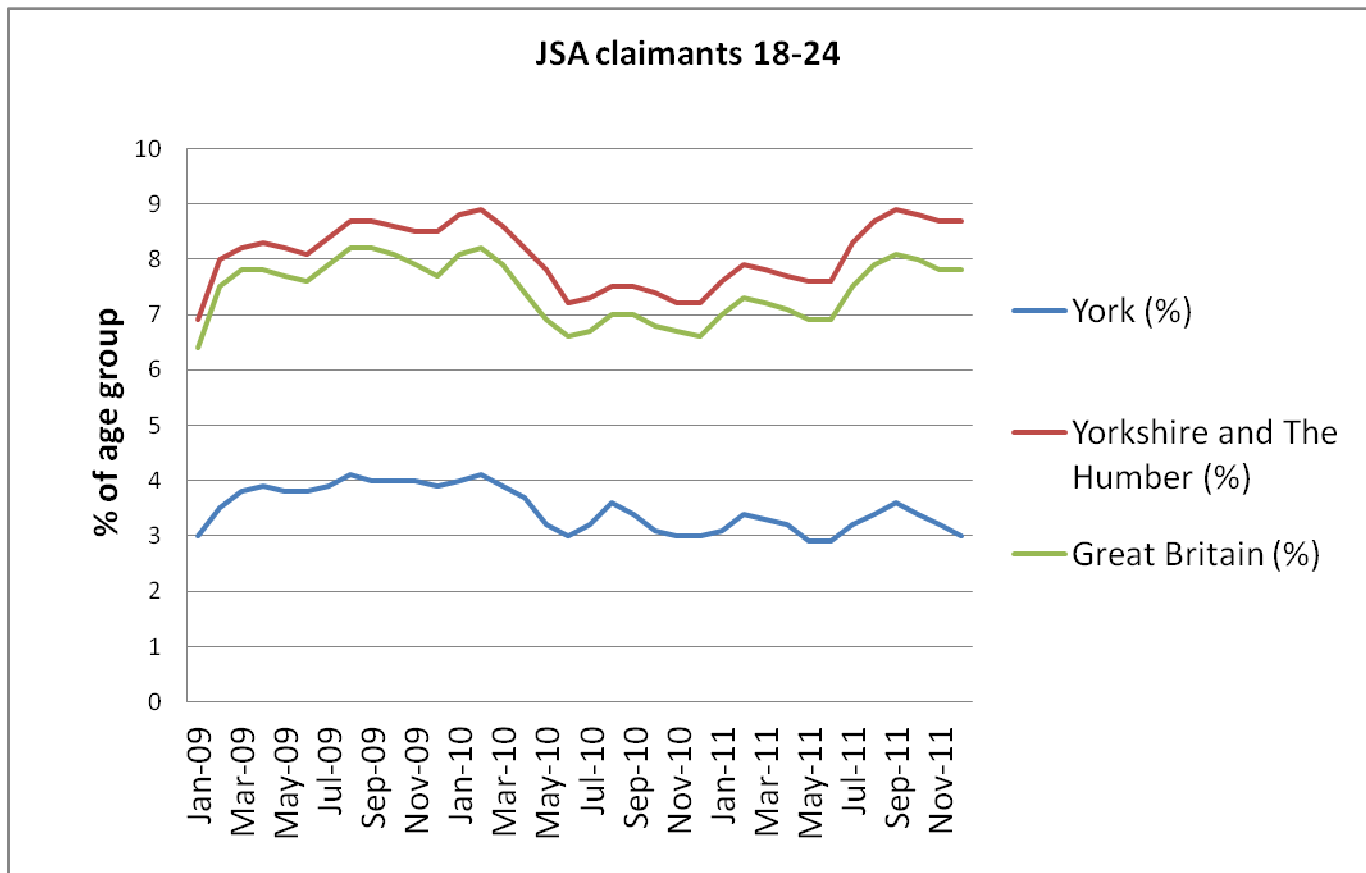
- *Apprentices:* As part of the 100 in 100 campaign, CYC committed to 36 Apprenticeships. The total number of pledges in December across the city from all employers was 199, which far exceeds the target of 100.
- *Economic Development:* A new Economic Development Plan has been completed and is currently out to consultation with the

business community. This will help support the local economy and position York on the global stage.

- *York Future Workforce Forum: YFWF* is working through the existing Economic Development Partnership and local employer networks to establish YFWF.

36 *Unemployment:* The number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in York increased slightly in Q3. This is inline with an increase for the region as a whole. Male JSA claimants remain higher than females at 3.3% and 1.5% respectively. The rate of females claiming JSA is increasing faster than males, but still remains one of the lowest in the region.

37 *Youth Unemployment:* The total number of JSA claimants between the ages of 18-24 as of December 2011 was 875. This is 3% of persons claiming JSA as a proportion of resident population of the same age. The 3% compares very favourably to that of the region (8.7%) and that of Great Britain (7.8%). Youth unemployment is higher in males with them accounting for 595 (68%) of the total 875 claimants.



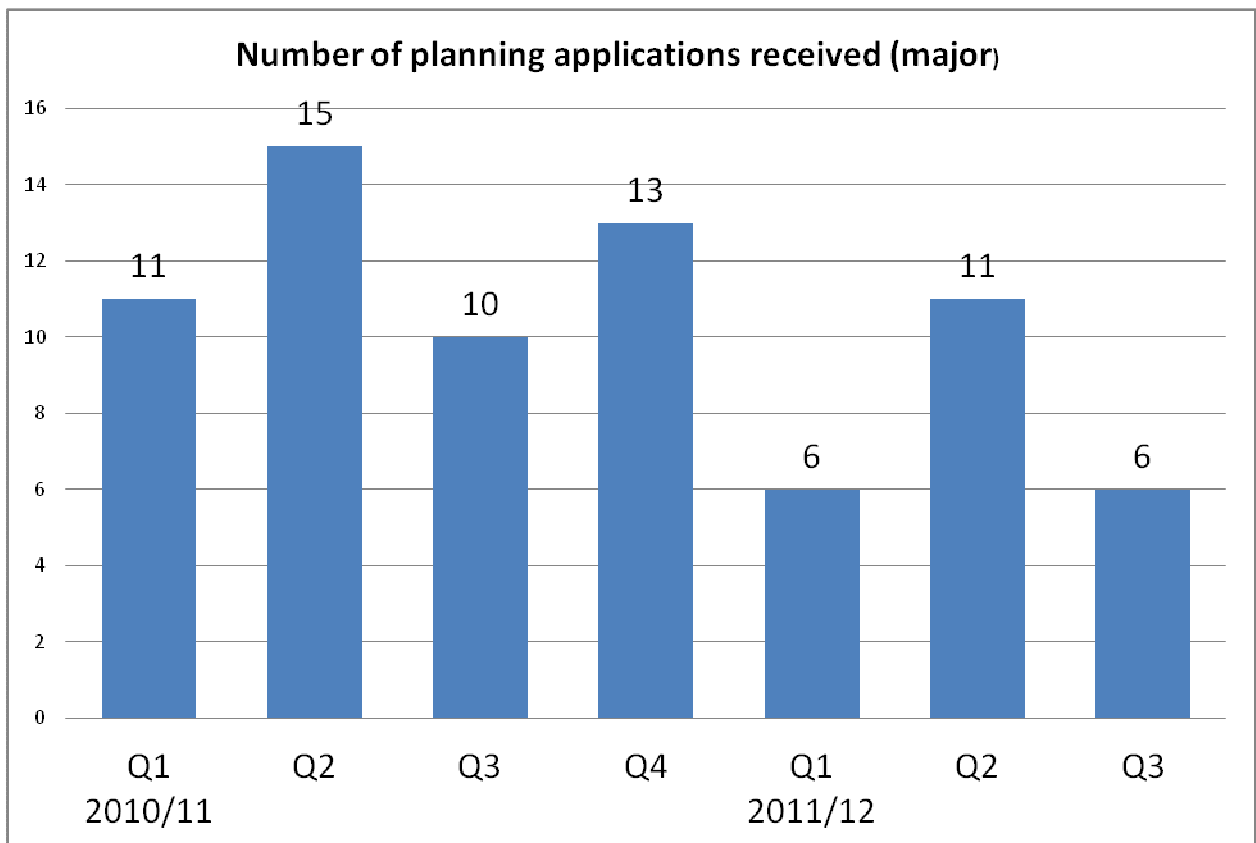
38 *Earnings:* The average weekly pay for city residents was £492.30 for 2011; this has increased the gap from the region average to

5.4% above from 4%. York is still below the national average but the gap has narrowed to 2.2% in comparison to 4.2% in 2010.

- 39 *Business Start-ups*: In 2011 there has been a 9.9% increase in small business start-ups in the city. This places York third in the region for the largest increase since 2010.

33Local Authorities	% Change from 2010
1. Kirklees	+11.4%
2. Selby	+11.2%
3. York	+9.9%
4. Calderdale	+3.2%
5. Leeds	+2.9%
6. Craven	+2.9%
7. Ryedale	+2.4%
8. Hambleton	+1.8%
9. East Riding of Yorkshire	+1.6%
10. Bradford	+1.4%
11. Harrogate	0.0%
12. Richmondshire	0.0%
13. Barnsley	-2.8%
14. Wakefield	-2.6%
15. Scarborough	-1.2%

- 40 *Planning Services*: The number of major planning applications processed within the required timescales has increased compare to last year (78% for April-December, compared to 73% in 2010/11). The number of minor applications processed within 8 weeks has reduced slightly to 75% (from 79% 2010/11). Processing times have been improving as a result of process improvements, however recent structural changes, as well as the signing of legal agreements on long outstanding major applications such as Terry's, Nestle and Hungate (triggering the issue of the formal decisions), may result in a temporary decrease in performance stats towards the end of the financial year.

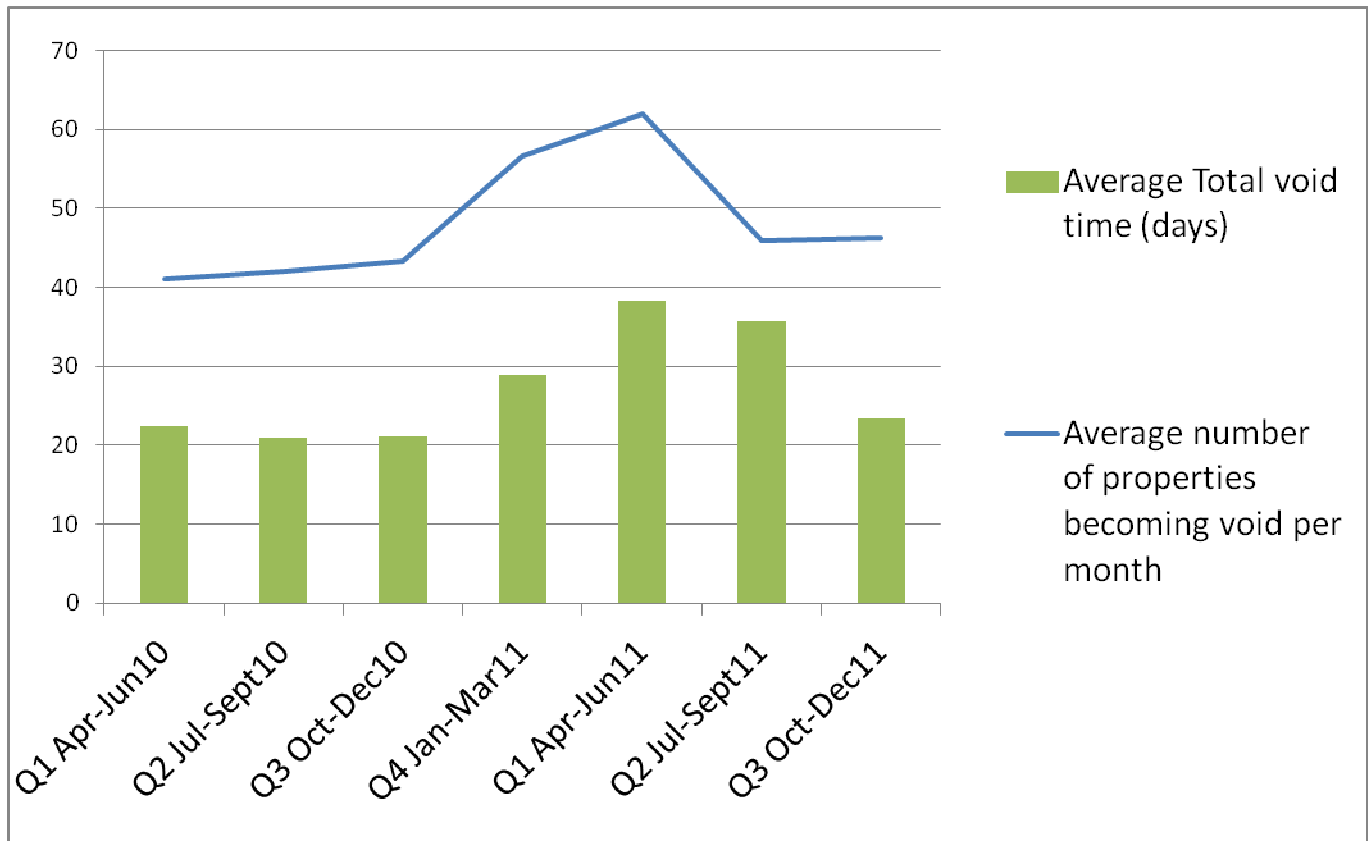


Director's Group

- 41 This service plan area holds the cross cutting performance information for the directorate of City Strategy; for example, indicators relating to Health and Safety, Human Resources, Customer First and Finance. Resource and Business Management is not responsible for any Performance measures.

Housing

- 42 The Empty Homes policy is also bringing back into use Private Sector empty properties.
- 43 After a significant rise in the re-let time for Council homes in the first half of the year, performance has now improved, and is on target for Q3 (December figures provisional). A 25% increase in the number of properties becoming void between Dec 10 and July 11 coincided with a reduction in resources (repairs operatives) to affect the speed properties were prepared for re-let. The detailed action plan in place since June has improved performance, and although the cumulative indicator is still showing the effect of poor performance early in the year, the monthly figures are now well within target.



Council Plan

44 The information included in this report demonstrates progress on achieving the aims and priorities set out in the Council Plan.

Implications

45 There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

46 The report provides Members with updates on finance and service performance and therefore there are no significant risks in the content of the report.

Recommendations

47 As this report is for information only, there are no recommendations.

Reason: To update the scrutiny committee of the latest finance and performance position.

Contact Details

Authors:

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**Chief Officers responsible for
the report:**

Bill Woolley
Director of City Strategy
(01904) 551330

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all* **All**

Background Working Papers

**Third Performance and Financial Monitor for 2011/12 , Cabinet
14th Feb 2012**

Annexes

None

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Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee**13th March 2012**

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Update on Recommendations Arising from the Water End Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)**Summary**

1. This report presents Members with an update on progress made in implementing the recommendations arising from the Water End Councillor Call for Action.

Background

2. At a meeting of the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 12th August 2009 Members were asked to consider a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) submitted by Councillors Scott, King and Douglas in relation to traffic issues at the junction of Water End and Clifton Green, Westminster Road, The Avenue and Clifton Green.
3. A cross-party Task Group was set up to undertake the work. At a meeting of Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 25th January 2011 the Committee signed off 2 recommendations as being fully implemented; only leaving recommendation 1 outstanding as below:

Recommendation 1

4. That Council Officers urgently develop new, comprehensive proposals for the Water End junctions to improve the current junction and reduce greatly traffic flows in Westminster Road/The Avenue.

Update on Recommendation

5. At a meeting on 27th September 2011 the Cabinet Member for City Strategy considered 6 potential options for re-instating a separate left hand turn traffic lane on the Water End approach to the Water End/ Clifton Green Junction. He resolved:
 - a. *That the contents of the report be noted.*
 - b. *That consultation take place with local residents and interest groups regarding Option 1 (retaining both the cycle track build-out and the splitter island) and Option 5 (introducing a central cycle feeder lane between two traffic lanes whilst retaining the splitter island).*
 - c. *That, as part of the consultation in respect of Option 1, views be sought as to whether the cobbles should be removed to provide extra carriageway width.*
 - d. *That an area-wide review of signal timings for weekdays and weekends be undertaken. (Measure A - as detailed in paragraph 60 of the report)*
 - e. *That the possibility of the introduction of a point closure on Westminster Road/ The Avenue be investigated.*
6. At a meeting of Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13th December 2011, Members asked that a further update be given at today's meeting and this is set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 below and has been provided by the Assistant Director Strategic Planning & Transport:
7. The consultation with local residents and interest groups has now been completed. A consultation leaflet outlining the two proposed options was distributed on 22nd December 2011 within the local area to approximately 465 properties. In addition to the leaflet distribution, the same information was also made available to view on the council's website and at the council reception at 9 St. Leonard's Place. Brief details were also published in the council's 'Your Voice' magazine, which was delivered to households across the city together with the quarterly Ward Newsletters in early January 2012. Information was also posted on the Clifton Ward's 'Facebook' page. The deadline for receiving comments on the proposed options was Friday 20th January 2012.

8. The consultation feedback is being considered by Cabinet on 3rd April 2012.

Consultation

9. Updates have been provided by the relevant officers within the Council.

Options

10. Members can choose to:
 - i. Sign off, as fully implemented, recommendation 1 of the Water End Councillor Call for Action,
 - or
 - ii. Request a further update report be brought back to the Committee in 6 months time.

Analysis

11. It is good practice for scrutiny committees to receive regular updates on progress made in implementing recommendations arising from completed scrutiny reviews and Councillor Call for Actions. At the January 2011 meeting of this Committee Members signed off, as fully implemented, recommendations 2 and 3 arising from the Water End Councillor Call for Action leaving recommendation 1 outstanding.
12. This report updates Members with progress made on recommendation 1 arising from the Councillor Call for Action.

Council Plan 2011-2015

13. This topic is directly linked with the 'Get York Moving' theme in the new Council Plan 2011-2015.

Implications

14. **Financial** – There are no known financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report. However financial implications may become apparent in relation to ongoing work on Recommendation 1 arising from the CCfA and these will be reported appropriately.

15. **Human Resources** – There are no known Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations in this report.
16. **Legal** – There are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report.
17. There are no known equalities, property, crime and disorder or other implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

18. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

19. Members are asked to note the update on Recommendation 1 and consider whether they wish to sign it off as fully completed.

Reason: To raise awareness of recommendations that still need to be implemented.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**



Date 01.03.2012

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: Clifton Ward

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Executive Papers - 6th July 2010

Executive Member for City Strategy Decision Session Papers – 7th December 2010

Scrutiny Management Calling In Papers – 20th December 2010

Executive Calling in Papers – 21st December 2010

Cabinet Member for City Strategy Decision Session Papers – 27th September 2011

Associated minutes pertaining to the above reports

Annexes

None

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**Economic & City Development Overview &
Scrutiny Committee**

13th March 2012

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Update Report – ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector Scrutiny Review’

Summary

1. At their last meeting Members were verbally informed, under the work plan item, that the ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector’ scrutiny review had been postponed. This report sets out a summary of the information received by the Task Group working on the review and the reasons for postponement.

Background

2. At a scrutiny work planning event held on 25th July 2011 it was agreed that the Economic & City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) would undertake a review in relation to ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector’. The OSC subsequently received information about this topic at two informal meetings and this is summarised in the paragraphs below:

27th September 2011

3. Members received a briefing note on the topic and were asked to complete a Topic Assessment Form to set out clear aims and objectives for the review. However, the meeting had gone on for some length before this item was heard. With only two Committee Members still in attendance by this point, this item was, therefore, deferred to a later meeting.

15th November 2011

4. The briefing note, originally presented on 27th September, was presented again at a meeting on 15th November 2011 and included information on:

- What is a carbon footprint?
- Information on the carbon footprint in York
 - Information on which wards have the highest and which the lowest carbon footprint in the city and reasons as to why this might be
 - Which wards have the highest and which the lowest housing footprint
 - Which wards have the highest energy use
 - Which wards have the highest transport carbon footprint
 - Different attitudes to carbon footprint and 'greenness' across the city
 - Which areas of the city have the strongest and which the weakest levels of green attitudes
 - The York Green Neighbourhood Challenge

5. A further briefing note was also presented and this set out information on the following (specifically in relation to Heslington, Hull Road and Fishergate Wards):

- Housing – private sector stock condition survey 2008
- Range of grants available
 - Area based approach (funding no longer available)
 - One Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) eligible area
 - Landlord newsletter
 - Landlord conference
 - Website information
 - House in multiple occupation licence conditions
 - Code of practice

6. Officers also confirmed that their future focus in relation to reducing the carbon footprint in the privately rented sector would be:

- Completing the CESP area
- Maximising the Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) for all residents
- Preparing residents including landlords/letting agents and tenants for the new opportunities Green Deal including Energy Company Obligation (ECO)
- Renewable technology
- Implementing the Energy Act 2011

7. On consideration and discussion of the above information the Committee identified the following specific topic area:

'Review of council policies and procedures in relation to the take up of available measures to reduce the carbon footprint in privately rented accommodation'.
8. The Committee agreed to form a 3 Member Task Group to undertake the bulk of the work on the review and asked for the following information to be presented to their first meeting:
 - An overview of current council policies relating to domestic carbon reduction
 - Regulations on domestic carbon reduction relating to private sector housing
 - An overview of policies relating to the regulation of privately rented accommodation in the city
 - The Government's Green Deal
9. The Task Group met on 20th January 2012 to receive further information on the points set out above. The Housing Standards and Adaptations Manager and the Sustainability Officer gave a comprehensive presentation on the 4 points set out in **paragraph 8** of this report.
10. They indicated that many of the current funding streams to assist with reducing the carbon footprint in the privately rented sector were coming to an end in 2012 and these would ultimately be replaced by the Government's new initiative the 'Green Deal'.
11. Officers explained that the Green Deal was:
 - The customer receives a package of energy efficiency measures at no up-front cost from a 'Green Deal' provider
 - The cost of the measures is paid back over the long term (for example 25 years) through repayments made via energy bills
 - The Green Deal will include owner-occupiers, the private and social rented sectors and the commercial sector
12. However detailed industry guidance was not due until late in Spring 2012 with the first Green Deals due to appear sometime in Autumn 2012.
13. Possible roles for City of York Council were being discussed at Leeds City Region Level and possibilities for these were as follows:

Option 1 Lead on provision of Green Deal directly themselves (likely to involve the procurement of partner organisations) with set up costs borne by local authorities

Option 2 Work in partnership with an existing commercial or community sector Green Deal provider or providers

Option 3 Leave to the 'Market' with no direct involvement in the scheme, although this could involve as a minimum the promotion of available schemes to residents.

14. On consideration of this information and after discussion with the officers present the Task Group agreed the following outcomes:

The review is being postponed (to a date to be confirmed) until further information is available on the Green Deal, this is likely to be in late Spring 2012. This information is key to the review, because without fully understanding what is proposed and what role the Council might well play in this, it would actually be very difficult for the Task Group to formulate any meaningful recommendations. In addition to this funding streams for CERT and CESP are coming to an end and will not be renewed so there is nothing that can be recommended in relation to these. However, despite this disappointing delay to the review, officers have given a commitment to:

- *Continue the Local Advice service until December 2012*
- *Take advantage of any CERT funding available (current funding has been extended until December 2012 to ensure that York Residents can take full advantage of the available CERT funding. The scheme is to be promoted to with a new brand "Wrapping up York" with a view to launching it as part of a wider marketing strategy regarding the local advice service*
- *Continue the CESP programme in the Hull Road area of the city (until funding ceases in December 2012)*
- *Hold a local housing summit in May 2012 (which will include a conference for private landlords which will raise awareness of ways to reduce the carbon footprint in privately rented accommodation)*
- *During 'Climate Week' (March 2012) undertake some ice-breaking measures to introduce the concept of the Green Deal*

Consultation

15. To date no consultation has taken place and this review has now been postponed. However, consultation will take place as appropriate once the review recommences.

Options

16. Members are asked to note the report and the reasons for postponing the review. They also have the option of rescheduling this into the work plan for later in this municipal year or at the start of the municipal year 2012/13.

Analysis

17. Members were made aware of the postponement of this review at their last meeting under the work plan item. This report is being brought to the Committee today to formally record that postponement. In addition to this, as part of their work planning, Scrutiny Management Committee have been informed that this Committee would like to take this topic forward into the new municipal year.
18. The reasons for postponing the review are set out in **Paragraph 14** of this report. Discussions between officers and the Task Group established that a short delay before continuing with the review would be appropriate whilst waiting for further information on the Green Deal.

Council Plan 2011-2015

19. The theme of this scrutiny review is directly linked with the 'Protect the Environment' element of the Council Plan 2011-2015; in particular the 'reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality' strand of this document.

Implications

20. **Financial** – there are no known financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However once the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
21. **Human Resources** - there are no known human resources implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However once the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.

- 22. **Legal** - there are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However once the review recommences implications may arise and these will be highlighted as part of the review process.
- 23. There are no other known implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

- 24. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

- 25. Members are asked to note the report and to consider when they might like to recommence the review.

Reason: To formally inform the Committee of the postponement of this review

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Report
Approved

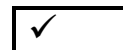


Date 01.03.2012

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None

Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2011/2012

Meeting Date	Work Programme
13 March 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarterly Financial & Performance Monitoring Reports 2. Update on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Water End Councillor Call for Action 3. Update Report – ‘Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector’ Scrutiny Review 4. Workplan
27 March 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentations on the following Potential Scrutiny Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 106 Agreements (processes for a timely completion) • Science City York & its role in Economic Development • How the Council works with partners to maximise employment opportunities for young people in the city

Items for 2012/2013 Work Plan

July 2012

Six Monthly Update Report on Major Developments within the City of York Council

Six Monthly Update Report on Major Transport Initiatives & Issues Arising from them

Sept/Oct 2012

Update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Newgate Market Scrutiny Review

TBC

Reducing the Carbon Footprint in the Privately Rented Sector – Next Steps Report

Update on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS)

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