



**Notice of a public meeting of
Decision Session - Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning &
Sustainability**

To: Councillor Merrett (Cabinet Member)

Date: Tuesday, 15 January 2013

Time: 3.00 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Calling In

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item on this agenda, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group by:

4.00pm on Thursday 17th January 2013 if an item is called in after a decision has been taken.

Items called in will be considered by the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by 5.00pm on Friday 11th January 2013.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, the Cabinet Member is asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which he may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. **Minutes**

(Pages 3 - 14)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2012.

3. **Public Participation - Decision Session**

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak at the meeting can do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Monday 14th January 2013**.

Members of the public may speak on:

- An item on the agenda,
- An issue within the Cabinet Member's remit.

4. **Update on the Provision of Subsidised Bus Services** (Pages 15 - 54)

This report asks the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability to consider 4 specific issues relating to the provision of subsidised bus services in York. Following consideration of this report, the approved recommendations will be presented to the public for consultation.

5. **Urgent Business**

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

Democracy Officer:

Name: Laura Bootland

Contact Details:

- Telephone – (01904) 552062
- Email – laura.bootland@york.gov.uk

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

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

Contact details are set out above

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Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

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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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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	DECISION SESSION - CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY
DATE	19 NOVEMBER 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR MERRETT (CABINET MEMBER)
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLOR BARTON

14. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

At this point in the meeting, the Cabinet Member was asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that he might have had in the business on the agenda.

The Cabinet Member declared personal non prejudicial interests in the general remit of the meeting as an honorary member of the Cycle Touring Club and as a participant in the York Cycle Campaign.

He also declared a further personal non prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 11 (Rufforth to Knapton Bridleway-Funding and Construction) in that he had involvement with the regional Sustrans representative and had also been a member of the regional board.

No other interests were declared.

15. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 27 September 2012 be approved and signed by the Cabinet Member as a correct record.

16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - DECISION SESSION

It was reported that there had been eight registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. Details of the registrations are included under the relevant minute.

17. OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED 50MPH SPEED LIMIT ON THE A19 AT DEIGHTON.

The Cabinet Member received a report which outlined 3 options in relation to a request from Deighton residents to lower the speed limit to 40mph on the A19 between Escrick and the layby to the south of Gravel Pit Farm.

Representations were received from a local resident, Wilson Clark who was in favour of lowering the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph. He gave a number of reasons to support this including;

- That traffic turning southbound out of the village could not see cars coming north at 60mph due to the bend in the road.
- That the access to the central island in the road for pedestrians was dangerous as it had been damaged by previous traffic collisions.
- Farm traffic often protruded into the northbound lane.
- That a proposed new development of an Anaerobic Digester plant at Deighton would cause an increase in traffic.

Further representations were received from David Dickman, another local resident. He also supported lowering the speed limit to 40 mph for a number of reasons including;

- That a number of near misses had gone unrecorded at the junction showing how dangerous the current speed limit was, in particular how the driver of an ambulance was injured due to taking slightly too long to turn into the village.
- Why 40 mph was the fastest speed that would allow safe access into the village, also compared with other villages in York that had 30 mph limits.

Additional representations were received from a local resident Tony Bramley. He spoke about how he was also in favour of reducing the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph for a number of reasons including;

- That due to current traffic speeds that difficulties had been encountered by local residents in trying to cross the road safely.
- That the illumination of the road was not very good, in particular the light on the pedestrian island was dim and the light at the bus stop in the village was broken.

Further representations were received from another local resident, Kevin Dixon. He spoke about how he felt that there was insufficient visibility at the junction to the village to allow for a 50mph speed limit. He felt that the Road Safety Audit that had been carried out had failed to consider road speed and visibility, and therefore the speed limit should not be raised to 50mph.

Councillor Barton, as the Ward Member, spoke about the lack of visibility at the road junction. He felt that it was not clear how the Police's recommendation of 60mph would work with the existing traffic lights. He also felt that the number of visits made by Officers to monitor the traffic situation was incomparable to the views of residents, who had seen a number of collisions and had suffered problems with bus access. He urged the Cabinet Member to not agree to Option A in the Officer's report, to introduce a 50mph speed limit as he felt it would be too expensive and would not solve existing residents concerns.

Officers informed the Cabinet Member that government regulations had recommended a 50mph speed limit in relation to the road at Deighton.

The Cabinet Member felt sympathetic to the concerns of local residents, and that the Police did have expertise in assessing the traffic speeds that they were restricted by resources. He felt that a detailed feasibility study needed to be carried out to examine the concerns raised. He also felt that a full scheme of lighting on the road would be expensive, but that a more limited scheme of improvements would be better, focused on pedestrian crossing points on the road.

RESOLVED: (i) That Option C, as detailed in the Officers report be agreed as the preferred option.

- (ii) That Officers undertake a feasibility study into delivering Option C, in particular to examine reasonable costs for improvements to the lighting.

REASON: To address concerns raised by local residents.

18. ACCESS YORK ROAD SAFETY AUDITS.

The Cabinet Member received a report which considered issues raised in Stage 2 Road Safety Audits (RSA) for the proposed Park and Ride facilities at Askham Bar and Poppleton Bar.

In their update to the Cabinet Member, Officers reported that they had received written representations from a garage owner and one from a resident in Cinder Lane, in relation to the A59/A1237 Roundabout improvements at Poppleton Bar.

Further representations were received from Paul Hepworth, he asked a couple of questions including; if a continuous signposted route existed from the Park & Ride car park into Northfield Lane and therefore could Officers assure him that there would be a reasonable cycle route into the site.

Questions from the Cabinet Member to the Officers related to a number of the exceptions (were the Designer did not accept or partially accepted the recommendations of the Council's Road Safety Audit team) listed in the Officer's report. The Cabinet Member made a series of questions that related to the RSA's problem locations, which were included in tables in the Officer's report. He asked if at the proposed junction at the A59 that there was enough space to allow for a 1.2 metre wide cycle lane at the mid junction link between Station Road & North Field Lane. He also questioned the use of part time signals on the A59/ A1237 junction approaches. He also asked for clarification on the pedestrian facilities in the car park and questioned the restrictions on the bus access route at Askham Bar.

Officers responded that the junction would allow for a 1.2 metre cycle lane. They also replied in relation to part time signals that they would not want to introduce these straightaway but would install infrastructure which would allow for the possibility of the signals to be installed in the future.

The signals should not alter the entry or exit of vehicles to/from the roundabout as a give way line would be present.

In clarification about the pedestrian facilities in the Park and Ride car park, Officers explained that bus traffic would be kept separate from the car park, in that it would be gated off. This would mean that pedestrians would not be crossing over an existing bus route, which is why they felt zebra crossings did not need to be installed.

RESOLVED: (i) That it be noted that Stage 2 RSAs have been completed for both proposed Park and Ride facilities at both Askham Bar and Poppleton Bar.

Reason: To acknowledge the completion of this milestone in the project

(ii) That it be agreed that the Designer's Responses where they consider that the RSA recommendation should not or cannot be achieved be supported.

Reason: To enable the scheme to be constructed thus enabling the programme for Access York to be maintained and secure Departmental Funding.

(iii) That it be agreed to support the proposed CYC recommendation to the Designers Response where clarification is requested by the designer.

Reason: To enable the scheme to be constructed thus enabling the programme for Access York to be maintained and secure Departmental funding.

REASON: To reduce the risk of incidents and improve road safety.

19. PARTNERSHIP SPEED REVIEW PROCESS UPDATE REPORT.

The Cabinet Member received a report which updated him on the collaborative Speed Review Process, set up in York, in conjunction with the Police (North Yorkshire Police) and Fire Service (North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service).

Officers updated the Cabinet Member regarding comments they had received from Councillor D'Agorne. In relation to his request for a zero tolerance approach on speeding, Officers explained that unfortunately they did not have the funding or manpower to deliver this.

The Cabinet Member felt that further discussions with the police regarding reviewing speed limits would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: That Option 1, as detailed in the Officer's report be agreed, and Officers be asked to work towards the introduction of an electronic reporting system for speed reports.

REASON: So that all locations identified, from past reports as well as the current report, are considered for appropriate speed reduction measures on clear and equal guidelines.

20. A1079 HULL ROAD (NEAR OWSTON AVENUE) LOCAL SAFETY SCHEME - ZEBRA CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS.

The Cabinet Member received a report which outlined a scheme that had been developed to address the types of accidents that had been occurring in the vicinity of the Zebra Crossing near Owston Avenue.

RESOLVED: That Option 1 to approve the scheme as shown in Annex A to the Officer's report to address a pattern shown in the accident data be approved.

REASON: To improve road safety, and reduce the number and severity of collusion.

21. LOCAL SAFETY SCHEME - ST. LEONARDS PLACE/BOOTHAM/GILLYGATE - SIGNING AND ROAD MARKING IMPROVEMENTS.

The Cabinet Member received a report which asked him to approve the implementation of the signing and road marking improvements at the St Leonards Place, Bootham and Gillygate junction.

RESOLVED: That Option 2, to approve the revised scheme as shown in Annex B to the Officer's report, to address the types of accidents that are occurring at the junction be agreed.

REASON: To improve road safety, and reduce the number of severity of collisions.

22. UPDATE ON THE BENCH PREVIOUSLY LOCATED AT STOCKTON LANE/HEMPLAND LANE JUNCTION.

The Cabinet Member received a report which updated him on the consultation to find a new location for the bench formerly positioned at the Stockton Lane/Hempland Lane junction, which was removed to address concerns over road safety and anti-social behaviour.

Representations were received from the Ward Member, Councillor Ayre. He felt that he could not support the proposals detailed in the Officer's report because he felt that there had not been a necessary amount of consultation with local residents.

RESOLVED: That Option 1, to install the bench at the Hempland Lane junction as shown in Annex B to the Officer's report and monitor the situation with regards to anti social behaviour be agreed.

REASON: To provide a facility to benefit older residents in the community and to safeguard the interests of local residents.

23. FISHERGATE GYRATORY - PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND FOOTWAY IMPROVEMENTS - CONSULTATION FEEDBACK.

The Cabinet Member considered a report which set out proposals for pedestrian crossing and footway improvements and summarises feedback from consultation with interested parties and made recommendations on a final scheme layout for implementation.

Officers updated the Cabinet Member by saying that the estimated cost of the scheme was now £250,000 rather than the £200,000 mentioned in their report. The only significant saving they could see would be not to use natural stone material near Fishergate Bar, but they added that they would be reluctant to do this because of the sensitive historic nature of the site.

RESOLVED: That Option B, to approve a revised scheme layout as indicated in Annex D to the Officer's report, be agreed.

REASON: To improve the walking route between York Barbican and St George's Field car/coach park, enhance pedestrian and cycle facilities near Fishergate Bar whilst also improving the appearance of this sensitive area and also generally improve road safety in this area.

24. RUFFORTH TO KNAPTON BRIDLEWAY - FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION.

The Cabinet Member considered a report which presented the current proposals for a bridleway running between the villages of Rufforth and Knapton, the sources of funding available, and who will be responsible for construction of the various sections.

A member of Rufforth and Knapton Parish Council, Tim Haward, attended the meeting and summarised the work that had taken place between the Ward Members and the Parish Council in relation to the development of the bridleway.

RESOLVED: (i) That the response to the recent consultation with residents and relevant user groups be noted.

(ii) That Option A, to agreed to fund the central section of the route from the Council's Transport Capital Programme be approved.

REASON: To acknowledge the wide support for the scheme and also enable the scheme in its entirety to be constructed thus enabling as much external funding as possible to be made available.

25. VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN - STRENSALL ROAD, EARSWICK.

The Cabinet Member received a report which asked him to approve the installation of a vehicle activated sign in Strensall Road Earswick.

RESOLVED: That the installation of a vehicle activated sign in Strensall Road Earswick as detailed in Annex B to the Officer's report be approved.

REASON: To improve road safety by reducing the speed of traffic entering Earswick.

26. CITY CENTRE FOOTSTREETS REVIEW - PART TWO.

The Cabinet Member received a report which asked him to consider the options for:

- Standardising and extending the hours of operation, and
- Controlling vehicle use of the Davygate, St Sampson's Square and Church Street route during footstreet hours.
- Further limiting the access in to the central area via the Nessgate/Spurriergate junction.

Representations were received from Paul Hepworth from the Cycle Touring Club, who shared his concerns about the extension of footstreet hours, in relation to commuting cyclists.

He did note that once an Experimental Traffic Order was in force, that objections could be raised to making it permanent and modifications could be made. He suggested that if the recommended options were approved that the Cabinet Member might also be minded to suggest extensive monitoring of cycle movements at the end of the working day.

Further representations were received from Councillor Ayre. He felt that the proposals for Davygate were particularly controversial given that there would be a significant reduction in disabled car parking spaces. He requested information regarding whether and what consultation had taken place with disability groups, and if feedback had been received. He also asked whether groups such as the York Independent Living Network and York Access group had been consulted, along with the Equality Advisory Group. He felt that he could not support the proposals as long as his questions remained unanswered.

Officers informed the Cabinet Member that those residents with green permits to access the central area in the evening would still be allowed to do this. It was noted that there was a request for Blake Street and Lendal to have more blue badge spaces set aside, but that loading times for the businesses along there also needed to be examined in relation to this.

The Cabinet Member recognised that instances of illegal intrusion in the central area existed, and that the current times of operation of footstreets did not send a good message, as there was often a rush of traffic towards the end of these hours.

- RESOLVED: (i) That Option 3, to extend and standardise the hours of operation to 10.30 am-5pm Monday-Sunday be approved.
- (ii) That Option 6b, to partially close off the route to all vehicles but allow access to St Sampson's Square via Church Street by green permit holders be approved.
- (iii) That Option 11 to carry out further detailed investigation into reducing the ability to use the city centre as a through route via the Spurriergate/Nessgate Junction be approved.

REASON: To contribute to the Corporate Strategies of Thriving City, Inclusive City and City of Culture.

CLLR D MERRETT, Cabinet Member
[The meeting started at 4.35 pm and finished at 5.40 pm].

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**Decision Session – Cabinet Member for
Transport, Planning & Sustainability**

15 January 2013

Local Bus Service Changes

Summary

1. City of York Council procures local bus services to operate at times of the day (or week), or in parts of the Authority area, where no commercially viable bus service exists. Where commercial services do exist (i.e. those that are operated by private companies but are neither contracted nor funded by the local authority), the Council engages with the operators with the aim of enhancing service standards.
2. To ensure that York's bus service best meets the needs of its passengers, City of York Council will work with bus operators through the York Quality Bus Partnership to consult with the general public on any proposals to alter routes and in the interests of making general improvements to the bus network. Following consideration of this report, the approved recommendations will, therefore, be presented to the public for consultation in advance of any exercise to procure or to withdraw bus services.
3. This report seeks the consideration of the Cabinet member on four specific issues:
 - a) To approve the re-tendering of routes 21 (Colton–Acaster Malbis–Askham Bar–York) and 35 (Holme on Spalding Moor–Wheldrake–York).
 - b) To consider the future of two services procured on an 'emergency' basis that commenced operation on 7th October 2012. These are routes 14 (Beckfield Lane–Boroughbridge Road–York) and 15 (South Bank–Bishopthorpe Road–York).
 - c) To consider the future of routes 24 and 26 (Askham Bar–Acomb Leeman Road–York-Fordlands Road, Fulford).

- d) To consider what action the Council should take in response to four petitions lodged concerning First Group's commercially operated bus network:
 - i. Route 5 (Strensall–Huntington–York–Acomb) from Huntington residents;
 - ii. Route 12 (Woodthorpe–Tadcaster Road–York–Heworth–Monks Cross) from Woodthorpe and Dringhouses residents;
 - iii. Route 13 (Copmanthorpe–Tadcaster Road–York–Haxby–West Nooks) – two petitions have been received, one from Copmanthorpe residents, the other from Haxby residents.
- e) The report considers the performance of each of the services and provides options for the Cabinet Member to consider for the continuation, alteration or cessation of services.

Recommendations

- 4. Subject to consultation, the Cabinet Member for City Strategy is provisionally recommended to:
 - a. Support the re-tendering of services on routes 21 and 35 and, subject to the resulting tenders being within budgetary constraints, agree to the award of contracts for these routes.
 - b. Support the re-tendering for replacement services on revised routes 24/26/627/637 and to provide a Monday to Saturday, hourly daytime service to the South Bank area of York. Subject to the resulting tenders being within budgetary constraints, agree to the award of contracts for these routes.
 - c. Support the withdrawal of Council subsidy for services on route 14 due to poor usage.
 - d. Continue to work with First Group to deliver reliability improvements across their network of services.
 - e. To work with First Group, Yorkshire Coastliner and the other York bus operators to increase the number of people using local bus services, to improve the commercial viability of bus services and to meet the Council's wider transport policy objectives.

- f. To consult with the general public on the recommendations listed above, both online and at a public meeting.

Reason: This course of action will allow the Council to continue to work towards its stated aim of delivering a significant improvement to the bus network whilst at the same time ensuring that resources are spent in line with the Council's stated criteria for the funding of public bus services.

Background

5. The City of York and surrounds benefit from a comprehensive network of bus services, a majority of which (80%+) are operated without subsidy from the Council. All of the bus routes in York are operated by private sector companies who are free to decide how they will run any services not requiring financial support. This includes the freedom to set the bus route, where the bus will stop, the timetable and fares charged.
6. The Council has powers, contained in the 1985 and 2008 Transport Acts, to provide subsidies for bus services where, in its view, there is a transport need that is currently not being met through commercially operated services. For the services it procures, the Council defines the route, stopping points, frequency and operating hours of the service. The Council also monitors the performance of each service.
7. Under legislation laid, the Council is permitted to award a proportion of its bus services without going out to tender. This is known as 'De-minimis' funding and usually applies when the sums of money are relatively modest, or where the majority of the daily or weekly timetable is operated without subsidy, but there are a number of journeys (usually operating on an evening or Sunday) that require subsidy.
8. Over ninety five percent of local bus services currently operated under contract to the Council have been subject to an open tendering process. This ensures that, as a result of a weighted evaluation of bids, best value and quality are delivered for the residents of York.

Routes 21 and 35

9. This report asks the Cabinet Member to consider the re-tender of two routes, both of which were last subject to tender in 2009 and

currently operate as per table 1 below and shown on a map at Annex E:

Table 1

No.	Route	Frequency/hours of operation	Current operator
21	Colton – Bolton Percy – Acaster Malbis – Bishopthorpe – Askham Bar – Dringhouses – South Bank – Rail station – Stonebow – Foss Islands Retail Park	Two hourly, Mon – Sat	Harrogate Coach Travel (Connexions – with Council subsidy)
35	Holme on Spalding Moor – Thorganby – Wheldrake – Fulford – York Piccadilly	Two hourly, Mon – Sat with evening journeys Fri/Sat	Yorkshire Coastliner (with Council subsidy)

10. City of York Council procures these services jointly on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) for route 21 and jointly on behalf of both NYCC and East Riding of York Council (ERYC) for route 35. The cost of the services is split between the authorities, according to the proportion of operated mileage falling in each Authority area.

Routes 24 and 26

11. Routes 24 and 26 currently operate as per table 2 below and on a map at Annex J. Services on these routes are also linked to the operation of school bus services on routes 627 and 637 and are covered by the same contract. However, these services are not directly affected by the changes outlined and the recommendations made in this report.

Table 2

No.	Route	Frequency/hours of operation	Current operator
24	Fordlands Rd – Fulford Rd – Broadway – Fishergate –	Hourly, Mon – Sat	Yorkshire Coastliner

	Picadilly – Rougier Street – Leeman Road – Lindsey Avenue – Carr Lane – Green Lane (Acomb) – Cornlands Rd		(with Council subsidy)
26	Fordlands Rd – Fulford Rd – Broadway – Fishergate – Piccadilly – Rougier Street – Leeman Rd –Boroughbridge Rd–Beckfield Lane – Green Lane (Acomb) – Ascot Way – Cornlands Rd – Foxwood – Woodthorpe – Askham Bar	Hourly, Mon – Sat	Yorkshire Coastliner (with Council subsidy)
627	The Stonebow – Heworth – Ashley Park – Melrosegate – Beeswing – Heslington Hall – Fulford School	School journeys only	Yorkshire Coastliner (with Council subsidy)
637	The Stonebow – Heworth – Ashley Park – Tang Hall Lane – Archbishop Holgate’s School	School journeys only	Yorkshire Coastliner (with Council subsidy)

12. Following an open tendering exercise in 2011, Yorkshire Coastliner (part of the Veolia Transdev group) was awarded the contract for routes 24 and 26. The annual cost to the Council of providing these two routes is £155,000.
13. During the course of late 2011 and 2012, First Group re-routed two of its commercially operated bus services and introduced a third. Following these changes, many of the roads served by routes 24 and 26 in the Leeman Road – Askham Bar area now duplicate commercial services. Services on routes 627 and 637 were not affected by these changes.

Route 15

14. Routes 11, 11a and 15 currently operate as per table 3 below and shown on a map at Annex F.

Table 3

No.	Route	Frequency/hours of operation	Current operator
11	Ashley Park – Heworth East Parade – York – Station – Bishopthorpe Road – Bishopthorpe	Half hourly, Mon – Sat	First Group (commercially operated)
11a	York – Station - Bishopthorpe Road – South Bank loop – Bishopthorpe Road – Bishopthorpe	Hourly, Sundays	Yorkshire Coastliner (with Council subsidy)
15	South Bank loop – Bishopthorpe Rd shops – York – Station – Bishopthorpe Rd shops – South Bank loop	Half hourly, Mon – Sat	First Group (with Council subsidy)

15. In October 2012, First Group implemented a wide-ranging review of its commercially operated network of services. One of the desired outcomes of the review was to deliver improvements to a number of routes that, hitherto, had developed a reputation for poor reliability at certain times.
16. Route 11 (see Table 3, above) was one of the routes that it struggled to operate reliably. First Group advised that, to improve reliability affordably for the majority of the route (and hopefully to improve the attractiveness of the route for Bishopthorpe residents), it intended to withdraw the ‘South Bank loop’ (see Annex F) from route 11.
17. The Council, in response to significant public concern, negotiated with First Group to provide a new route 15 on a trial basis at an annual equivalent cost of £35,000.
18. First Group has advised the Council that reliability on their commercial route 11 has improved and that they do not intend to re-introduce the South Bank loop to this route.

Route 14

19. Route 14 operates as per table 4 below and as shown on a map at Annex F:

Table 4

No.	Route	Frequency/hours of operation	Current operator
14	Acomb shops – Beckfield Lane – Boroughbridge Rd – Poppleton Rd – Station – York – Lawrence Street – Hull Road – York Sport Village	Half hourly, Mon – Sat daytime	First Group (commercially operated)
14	Acomb shops – Beckfield Lane – Boroughbridge Rd – Poppleton Rd – Station – Piccadilly	Hourly, Sundays	First Group (with Council subsidy)
14	Acomb shops – Beckfield Lane – Boroughbridge Rd – Poppleton Rd – Station – Piccadilly	Two early evening return journeys (Mon – Sat)	First Group (with Council subsidy)

20. Route 14 was introduced, following First Group's commercial bus service review, in October 2012. The route provided an improved frequency of service along the section of route common with route 10 (Poppleton – Stamford Bridge) to provide a combined 15 minute frequency during the daytime, Monday – Saturdays. The new route 14 also provides the only current bus link to the 'York Sport Village' at Grimston Bar.
21. As a result of First Group's service review, the Beckfield Lane area of York did, however, see an overall reduction in service. Over the past three years, the commercial bus offer has been gradually reduced with services having declined in stages from every ten to every thirty minutes. As First Group did not propose to introduce an evening or a Sunday service, Beckfield Lane had no bus service at these times.

22. The Council agreed to support evening and Sunday services on route 14 on a trial basis to gauge usage levels at an annual equivalent cost of £36k.

Petitions concerning routes 5 and 12

23. Routes 5 and 12 operate as per table 5 below and as shown on a map at Annex G:

Table 5

No.	Route	Frequency/hours of operation	Current operator
5	Strensall – Huntington – York – Leeman Road – Acomb Shops – Foxwood	Mon – Sat daytime: 15 mins Sun daytime: 30 mins Mon – Sun eve & : Hourly	First Group (commercially operated)
12 (pre Oct 2012)	Foxwood - Woodthorpe – Dringhouses – Tadcaster Rd – Station – York – Huntington Rd - Wigginton – Haxby West Nooks	Mon – Sat daytime: 30 mins Sun daytime: Hourly Mon – Sun eve: Hourly	First Group (commercially – evenings and Sundays with Council subsidy)
12 (post Oct 2012)	Foxwood - Woodthorpe – Dringhouses – Tadcaster Rd – Station – York – Heworth – Monks Cross	Mon – Sat daytime: 30 mins Sun daytime: Hourly(*) Mon – Sun eve: Hourly(*)	First Group (commercially – evenings and Sundays with Council subsidy)

(*) Evening and Sunday journeys operate as per the pre- October 2012 route (ie From Foxwood – Haxby West Nooks)

Route 5

24. A petition was presented to the meeting of all City of York Councillors on 11th October 2012 by Cllr Orrell on behalf of a number of Huntington residents. The petition is presented at Annex A to this report and states:

'I/we are concerned that recent changes to the No 5 bus service have made it even more unreliable. We call on First to review and improve this service for local residents.'

Route 12

25. A petition was presented to the meeting of all City of York councillors on 11th October 2012 by Cllr Reid on behalf of a number of Dringhouses and Woodthorpe residents. The petition is presented at Annex B to this report and states:

'I/we, the undersigned, are concerned that recent changes to the No 12 bus service have affected its reliability. We call on First to review and improve the route and timings to help improve this service for local residents.'

26. Both petitions were received four days after comprehensive changes were made to both the routing and timetable of services 5 and 12. The impact on reliability of the 7th October service changes is considered in the 'Analysis' section of this report.

Petitions concerning route 13

27. Routes 13 operates as per table 6 below and as shown on a map at Annex G:

Table 6

No.	Route	Frequency/hours of operation	Current operator
13 (pre Oct 2012)	Copmanthorpe – Askham Bar – Tadcaster Rd – Station – Heworth – Monks Cross	Mon – Sat daytime: 30 mins Sun daytime: Hourly(*)	First Group (commercially – evenings and Sundays with Council subsidy)

13 (post Oct 2012)	Copmanthorpe – Askham Bar – Tadcaster Rd – Station - Huntington Road – Wigginton – Haxby West Nooks	Mon – Sat daytime: Hourly Sun daytime: Hourly(*)	First Group (commercially – evenings and Sundays with Council subsidy)
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(*)Sunday journeys operate as per the pre-October 2012 route (ie from Copmanthorpe – Monks Cross)

Copmanthorpe petition

28. The Council received a petition from the Copmanthorpe branch of the Yorkshire Countrywomen (forwarded by Copmanthorpe Parish Council) in August 2012.
29. The petition is included as Annex C to this report. The petition objects to the lack of consultation undertaken by First Group with regard to the change of route and the frequency of daytime service to Copmanthorpe (a reduction from every 30 minutes to every hour).

Haxby petition

30. Cllr Dave Merrett received a petition sent by Jean Nicholls on behalf of a number of residents of Haxby and Wigginton in November 2012. The petition is included as Annex D to this report and states:

'We the undersigned, as residents of Haxby & Wigginton wish to protest against the decision by First York to withdraw the No12 bus from serving Haxby & Wigginton, and replace it with a No13 service that only runs every hour.'

Consultation

Routes 21 & 35

31. The views of ward councillors have been sought with regard to any amendments to routes 21 and 35 they may wish to make prior to the services being retendered, if this is the Cabinet Member's wish.
32. Comments were received from Cllrs Reid, Semlyen and Galvin seeking retention of existing levels of service on route 21.

33. Cllr Hodgson commented that he had received a report of the service missing out the Middlethorpe Estate, an area which both he and Cllr Reid identified as being of importance as it is not served by any other bus. Cllr Hodgson's concern was put to the incumbent operator of route 21, Harrogate Coach Travel, who advised that they were very sorry for this having occurred and confirmed that it was certainly not an approved practice. Harrogate Coach Travel agreed to further investigate the situation and to ensure that it did not happen again.

Routes 24 & 26

34. Further to changes to their commercial network in October 2012, First Group asked the Council to withdraw elements of the publically subsidised service duplicating (and potentially reducing the viability of) its commercially operated services. The operator is within its right to do this. It is at the discretion of the Council to take any action it deems necessary to correct the situation. Table 7 at paragraph 53 identifies sections of common corridor between subsidised and commercial routes.
35. Yorkshire Coastliner also requested that the Council review routes 24 and 26. This is due to the services not carrying the patronage anticipated when the contracts were awarded (due to the increased competition from First Group's services).

Routes to be revised/ withdrawn/ re-tendered

36. As outlined at the outset of this report, a public consultation will be undertaken to inform the detailed service proposals in advance of the implementation of any changes.

Route 5

37. Council officers corresponded with Cllr Orrell in November to clarify when the petition had been collated. Cllr Orrell confirmed that the petition had been completed during the summer before the changes. Cllr Orrell went on to say that

'The feedback we have so far is that the changes haven't addressed the fundamental problem of reliability & the No 5 losing buses before other routes.'

This assertion was put to Operations staff at First Group who stated that:

“The reliability of the service 5 has improved since the October changes, the number 5 service does not suffer from losing buses before other routes”.

Subsequently, Cllr. Orrell has forwarded a number of emails from residents suggesting that the reliability of service 5 is still unsatisfactory. Two of the emails request enhancements to the service timetable (i.e, more frequent buses). A further email comments on the lack of waiting facilities at the St Leonard’s Place bus stop towards Huntington. The facilities at this and neighbouring stops is being reviewed as part of the Better Bus Area Fund and, where possible, shelter facilities will be introduced.

Route 13

38. The Council made representations to First Group prior to the 7th October network changes requesting that a half hourly frequency be instated on this route. First Group declined to take the Council’s views on board and proceeded to register an hourly service.
39. Representatives from First Group attended a Haxby & Wigginton ward committee meeting in early December. At the meeting residents and ward members discussed various issues about the service. First Group agreed to review the timetable to identify whether there is a cost-effective way of providing additional peak journeys between Haxby West Nooks and the city centre. First Group is not expecting to make significant changes to its timetable as it is mindful of not causing further disruption to passengers and is unlikely to be able to reinstate the previous frequency throughout the day.

Options

40. The following options are presented for the consideration of the Cabinet Member:

Route 21

- a) Issue a competitive tender for route 21 broadly to the current route and timetable and, subject to the resulting tenders being within budgetary constraints, agree to the award of contracts for these routes.

- b) Issue a competitive tender for route 21 with an amended route to incorporate an hourly frequency service between South Bank/Knavesmire Road and York via Bishopthorpe Road.
- c) Cease operation of route 21.

Route 35

- a) Issue a competitive tender for route 35 broadly to the current route and timetable and, subject to the resulting tenders being within budgetary constraints, agree to the award of contracts for this route.
- b) Cease operation of route 35.

Route 14

- a) Issue a competitive tender for evening and Sunday services on route 14 and, subject to the resulting tenders being within budgetary constraints, agree to the award of a contract for this route.
- b) Continue to subsidise two evening return journeys on route 14 on a de-minimis basis, but discontinue the Sunday service due to poor usage.
- c) Cease operation of the evening and Sunday subsidised journeys on route 14.

Route 15

- a) Issue a competitive tender for a Monday – Saturday, 30 minute daytime service as per the current route 15 timetable.
- b) Issue a competitive tender for a Monday – Saturday, hourly daytime service to the South Bank area of York in place of route 15 and, subject to the resulting tenders being within budgetary constraints, agree to the award of a contract for this route.
- c) Cease operation of route 15 and decline to support the competitive tender of a replacement service.

Routes 24/26

- a) Do nothing (i.e. continue to subsidise the current service provision on these routes as per the current, live, contract).

- b) Issue a competitive tender for a replacement route 24/26 and, at the same time to issue a competitive tender to provide a Monday – Saturday, hourly daytime service to the South Bank area of York in place of route 15 (as outlined at ‘Analysis’ paragraph 52).
- c) Cease operation of route 24 and 26

Routes 5 & 12

- a) Continue to work with First Group to identify measures that will enable reliability improvements on both routes.

Route 13

- a) Continue to work with First Group to identify measures that will enable reliability improvements on route 13.
- b) Issue a competitive tender for an hourly service on route 13 to interwork with the commercial hourly service and, subject to the resulting tenders being within budgetary constraints, agree to the award of a contract for this route.

Analysis

Route 35

- 41. Route 35 provides important, well established, transport links between York and its rural hinterland. It is the only public transport service connecting York to a significant number of villages surrounding the City both within and outside the Authority’s jurisdiction and is jointly funded by East Riding (ERYC), North Yorkshire (NYCC) and City of York councils.
- 42. From 2006 to 2008, First Group ran route 35 (then numbered the 18) on a commercial basis. Unfortunately the company was unable to continue to do so and the route was subjected to competitive tender. The route has subsequently been operated by York Pullman and latterly, by Yorkshire Coastliner.
- 43. In considering whether or not to subsidise a particular bus route, City of York Council employs criteria of a maximum subsidy of £2 per passenger carried and a minimum number of 9 passengers carried per bus hour operated.
- 44. A review of patronage data over 2012 reveals that route 35 operates at a subsidy cost of £0.58 per passenger (a slight

improvement on the previous year) and with 14 passengers travelling per bus hour.

45. East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) is currently considering a possible extension of the route from Holme on Spalding Moor to Market Weighton. This would see the merger of two routes currently funded by ERYC and any such extension to the route will be funded by ERYC.
46. Subject to confirmation of support from NYCC and ERYC it is proposed that a competitive tender is issued for route 35 broadly based on the current timetable.

Route 21

47. In common with route 35, route 21 provides important, well established, transport links between York and its rural hinterland and is jointly funded by North Yorkshire County and City of York councils.
48. Route 21 operates at a subsidy cost of £1.84 per passenger and with 10 passengers travelling per bus hour.
49. Option B for route 21, outlined at paragraph 40 above, would result in the introduction of a two hourly service between South Bank and York, interworked with the existing two hourly service along the whole length of the route (from York – Colton). This would deliver an hourly service on the common section of route.
50. Whilst this may appear an attractive option, it could be unattractive for the following reasons:
 - a. Unreliability on the section of route between South Bank and York may have a negative impact on the reliability of the longer journeys.
 - b. The route is currently operated using one vehicle to an efficient schedule. A 'short' variant would require an additional vehicle with which the same efficiencies could not be achieved (leaving a significant amount of time when the bus would be waiting for its next journey).

Officers would therefore propose that the hourly link between South Bank and York is tendered as a distinct contractual 'lot'. This would

provide bus operators with the opportunity to interwork with other services if the opportunity arises.

51. Subject to support from NYCC, officers therefore propose that route 21 is subject to competitive tender on the basis of the existing timetable. Any draft timetable issued as part of the tendering process for the other service to operate in South Bank should be constructed in such a way that the two services complement rather than compete with one another. Further, both of these services should seek to complement rather than compete with First Group's services on route 11 where possible.

Route 24/26

52. The background information for the current situation concerning routes 24 and 26 is outlined at paragraphs 11, 34 and 35.
53. Table 7 below summarises the sections of common route between routes 24/26 and the commercially operated network.

Table 7

Duplicate section	Current route	Provided by?
Askham Bar – Foxwood Lane	26	First – 12
Cornlands Rd – Acomb	24	First – 5
Beckfield Lane – Water End	26	First – 14
Carr Lane top – Leeman Rd - Station Road	24/26	First – 5
York – Fulford	24/26	Arriva - 415

54. Table 8 below highlights the sections of route unique to routes 24/26:

Table 8

Unique sections	Current route
St Stephen's Road	26
Kingsway West/ Ascot Way	26
Carr Lane	24
Lindsey Avenue – Grantham Drive	24
Broadway – Heslington Lane	24/26
Fulford, Fordlands Road	24/26

55. The constrained make up of York's road network means that it would be impossible for bus routes not to duplicate one another to some extent. Officers recommend, however, terminating the current route 24/26 contract and re-tendering for a revised contract.
56. It is proposed that the revised contract will retain the current frequency of service on the route currently enjoyed. A plan of the proposed route 24 (and of a revised route 15) is shown at Annex H. As part of the revised route, it is also possible to provide an hourly service linking Fulford to Heslington Hall (as previously provided by route 20). The routes are provisionally numbered 15, 24, and 27 on the map at Annex H. Further information concerning route 15 can be found at paragraphs 63 to 66 of this report.

Route 14

57. As outlined earlier in this report, route 14 was introduced on 7th October and operates Monday to Saturday daytimes on a commercial basis.
58. At the request of residents and local ward councillors, officers procured two early evening Monday - Saturday return trips between Beckfield Lane and York city centre and an hourly daytime service on a Sunday between the same points.
59. Officers have analysed the evening and Sunday patronage data for these journeys, based on ticket machine data supplied by First

Group and supported by on-bus patronage counts undertaken by the Council's bus monitoring clerk.

60. The evening journeys are provided at a subsidy cost of £4.18 per passenger and with 4.2 passengers travelling per bus hour both of which are outside of the Council's criteria for support and hence the service is not delivering value for money.
61. Officers recommend that the Council no longer continues to subsidise these journeys.
62. The Sunday journeys are provided at a subsidy cost of £3.45 per passenger and with 11.6 passengers travelling per bus hour. As the cost per passenger carried is outside the Council's criteria for subsidy, it is recommended that the current 'de-minimis' arrangement is ceased and that no replacement is procured.

Route 15

63. As outlined earlier in this report, services were introduced on route 15 from 7th October in response to a commercial decision by First Group to withdraw its commercial services on route 11 from the South Bank loop. The service operates Monday to Saturday daytimes. Evening and Sunday journeys are provided by routes 11 and 11a respectively.
64. Route 15 is provided at a subsidy cost of £0.75 per passenger and with 14.0 passengers travelling per bus hour. The route therefore meets both of the Council's criteria for continued subsidy.
65. Whilst the subsidy figures meet with the Council's criteria, the current level of subsidy is not sufficient for First Group to continue to operate the route on the current basis. The Council believes that a far more significant subsidy would ordinarily be required to provide a service of this order on this length of route. Officers therefore believe that the current arrangements are not sustainable in the long term.
66. The projected cost of a continued half hourly service may prove unaffordable. For this reason, officers recommend that a competitive tendering exercise is undertaken and prices are sought for an hourly service between South Bank and York in line with other contracted services but that bidders are allowed to submit prices for an enhanced frequency. This would allow the Council to continue to provide the best possible service from within its budget.

It would also allow the bidding companies the freedom to determine how to interwork the vehicles used on the South Bank loop with other routes.

Route 5

67. The route taken by service 5 was altered at its Acomb end on 7th October 2012 as part of changes undertaken by First Group to its commercially operated bus network. Route 5 has and continues to operate on a wholly commercial basis at all times and operates a 15 minute service throughout the day.
68. The real time passenger information for route 5 shows that there has been a significant improvement in the reliability of the service since the October changes, with October–December consistently showing less variation from the timetable than July–September did.

Route 12

69. In common with route 5, route 12 is also operated on a commercial basis during the daytime, Monday to Saturday. First Group altered the route in October, as outlined at table 5 earlier in the report.
70. The real time passenger information for route 12 shows that the reliability across the service has improved, particularly in the evening peak.

Route 13

71. Unlike routes 5 and 12, route 13 saw a reduction in frequency as a result of the 7th October network changes (from every 30 minutes to hourly). Following local representations, First Group is reviewing the timetable to identify whether there is a cost-effective way of providing additional peak journeys between Haxby West Nooks and the city centre. First Group is not expecting to make significant changes to its timetable as it is mindful of not causing further disruption to passengers and is unlikely to be able to reinstate the previous frequency throughout the day.
72. As route 13 is operated on a commercial basis, it is the view of officers that to provide an additional half hourly, Council subsidised service, would only serve to undermine the viability of the commercial hourly service. Although an additional subsidised service would give existing passengers more journey options, it would be unlikely to increase overall patronage as it would not serve

any new destinations. In addition, if First Group determine that route 13 is no longer commercially viable, the Council would have to step in to provide a subsidised service. It is likely that this would be operated on an hourly frequency.

73. In common with routes 5 and 12 above, officers propose to monitor the routes and to assist First Group in any way possible to continue to improve bus punctuality. Further, it is proposed that the Council should work with First to identify measures which might enable the reinstatement of a higher frequency service on the route (e.g. improvements delivering more efficient traffic signals along the line of route or support for campaigns to encourage greater usage of route 13).

Corporate Objectives

74. Support for bus services in York contributes to the following Corporate priorities:
- **Sustainable City** - There is considerable scope for reducing vehicle congestion delay on the overall network through greater bus use, thereby reducing the associated adverse affects, such as air pollution.
 - **Inclusive city** – The retention of sustainable bus routes across York increases access to opportunities and facilities by a wider (and potentially cheaper) range of travel choices.
75. Local Transport Plan 2011- 2015 (LTP3): Support for the services outlined above would contribute to several of the aims of the third Local Transport Plan, namely:
- To provide quality alternatives to the car to provide more choice and enable more trips to be undertaken by sustainable means
 - Improving Strategic Links to enhance the wider connections with the key residential and employment areas in and around York, and beyond
 - Tackling Transport Emissions to reduce the release of pollutants harmful to health and the environment.

Implications

- **Financial**

The total projected expenditure on local bus services for 2012/13 is £765k and for 2013/14 is £835k (the increase resulting from the full cost of new contracts introduced in 2012/13 as well as full year costs for the operation of routes 14 and 15).

The annual budget for subsidised bus services is £774k. Whilst the 2013/14 expenditure will be subject to the outcome of a competitive tendering exercise, the current contract prices would result in a budgetary shortfall of £61k.

The following table outlines those elements of service which may be subject to either cost increases or reductions depending on the option chosen. The third column outlines whether the cost will be increased or decreased.

<i>Route no.</i>	<i>Current annual cost</i>	<i>Projected increase/decrease</i>
14	£40,600	Decrease
15	£35,500	Decrease
21	£38,200 (cost to CYC net of NYCC contribution)	Increase
24/26	£153,900	Flat
35	£14,168 (cost to CYC net of NYCC & ERYC contributions)	Increase

It is anticipated that it will be possible to incorporate all of the amendments in the current budget for local bus services for 2013/14, subject to the outcome of an open tendering competition, withdrawal of subsidised route 14 and a reduction of frequency on route 15.

- **Human Resources (HR)**

There are no HR implications

- **Equalities**

An Equalities Impact Assessment to support the Council's support of local bus services was produced earlier in 2011.

- **Legal**

There are no Legal implications

- **Crime and Disorder**

The withdrawal of evening bus services where no public transport exists may require people to make journeys by foot in the dark which they wouldn't otherwise make, possibly increasing the risk to vulnerable members to the community.

- **Information Technology (IT)**

There are no IT implications

- **Property (*Contact – Property*)**

There are no Property implications

- **Other**

There are no other implications

Risk Management

76. Any tender exercise would be conducted in line with OJEU guidelines under the close supervision of the Council's Procurement team. Any new contract awards (or the continuation of existing services beyond March 2013) will be subject to the necessary funding being made available through the Council's budget process in February 2013.
77. Measured in terms of impact and likelihood, the risk score for all risks has been assessed at less than 16. This means that at this point the risks need only to be monitored as they do not provide a real threat to the achievement of the objectives of this report.

Contact Details

Author:

Andrew Bradley
Sustainable Transport
Operations Manager

Ext. 1404

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Richard Wood
Assistant Director (Strategic Planning & Transport)

**Report
Approved**



Date 14.01.13

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A: Petition received concerning route 5

Annex B: Petition received concerning route 12

Annex C: Petition received concerning route 13 from residents of Copmanthorpe

Annex D: Petition received concerning route 13 from residents of Haxby/ Wigginton

Annex E: Map showing services 21 and 35

Annex F: Map showing services 11, 14 and 15

Annex G: Map showing services 5, 12 and 13

Annex H: Map showing proposed services 15, 24 and 27

Annex J: Map showing services 24 and 26

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Annex A

I/We are concerned that recent changes to the No 5 Bus service have made it even more unreliable. We call on First to review and improve this service for local residents.

Annex B

No 12 Bus Petition (343 Households)

I/We, the undersigned, are concerned that recent changes to the Number 12 bus service have affected its reliability. We call on First to review and improve the route and timings to help improve the service for local residents.

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Copmanthorpe Parish Council - 23 August 2012

I have been given the enclosed to pass on to you, in light of the new bus timetable for the number 13 service through Copmanthorpe. This comes from the Copmanthorpe branch of the Yorkshire Countrywomen, and I know that the WI is similarly concerned about the effect that this will have on our residents, particularly the more elderly who rely on a regular bus service into York.

There would seem to have been little or no consultation on these changes, and it would appear that they are being handed to us as a fait accompli.

P Diane Greenwell
Clerk to the Parish Council

YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION - COPMANTHORPE BRANCH

'It has come to our attention that it is proposed to change the timing of the No 13 bus from every 30 minutes to once an hour.

*A large number of residents depend on this service as they are elderly, **some** have health problems and many do not own a car.*

Most of the time the service is well used, especially by students and business people, and it is not always convenient to walk to Top Lane to catch the Coastliner service.'

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Annex D

Dear Councillor Merrett,

First Bus – No. 13 Route, York

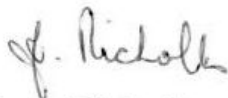
Further to our telephone conversation a few weeks ago regarding the changes to the No. 12 route (now No. 13 route) I enclose herewith a Petition from the residents of Haxby and Wigginton affected by the changes for your attention.

I feel that the residents of Haxby and Wigginton should be given a chance to discuss their concerns with York City Council and First Group by way of a Public Meeting in the Memorial Hall in the village which is central for everyone to get to.

Over the last few years the bus service has deteriorated greatly which has caused inconvenience to people trying to get to work, students attending schools and colleges in York as well as the older residents. The Council wants people to use the bus services rather than taking their cars, if they have one, into the City but this is becoming increasingly more difficult. A lot of the older people in the villages use the bus to get into the centre of the village and attend the doctor's surgery not just for their trips into York.

I look forward to hearing from you with any suggestions to have on how the Council can assist us to obtain a better bus service.

Yours sincerely,



Jean Nicholls

Enc:

We the undersigned, as residents of Haxby & Wigginton wish to protest against the decision by First York to withdraw the No12 bus from servicing Haxby & Wigginton, and replace it with a No13 service that only runs every hour.

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Legend

Service 21

Service 35

Produced by: Tom Horner
Not Scaled



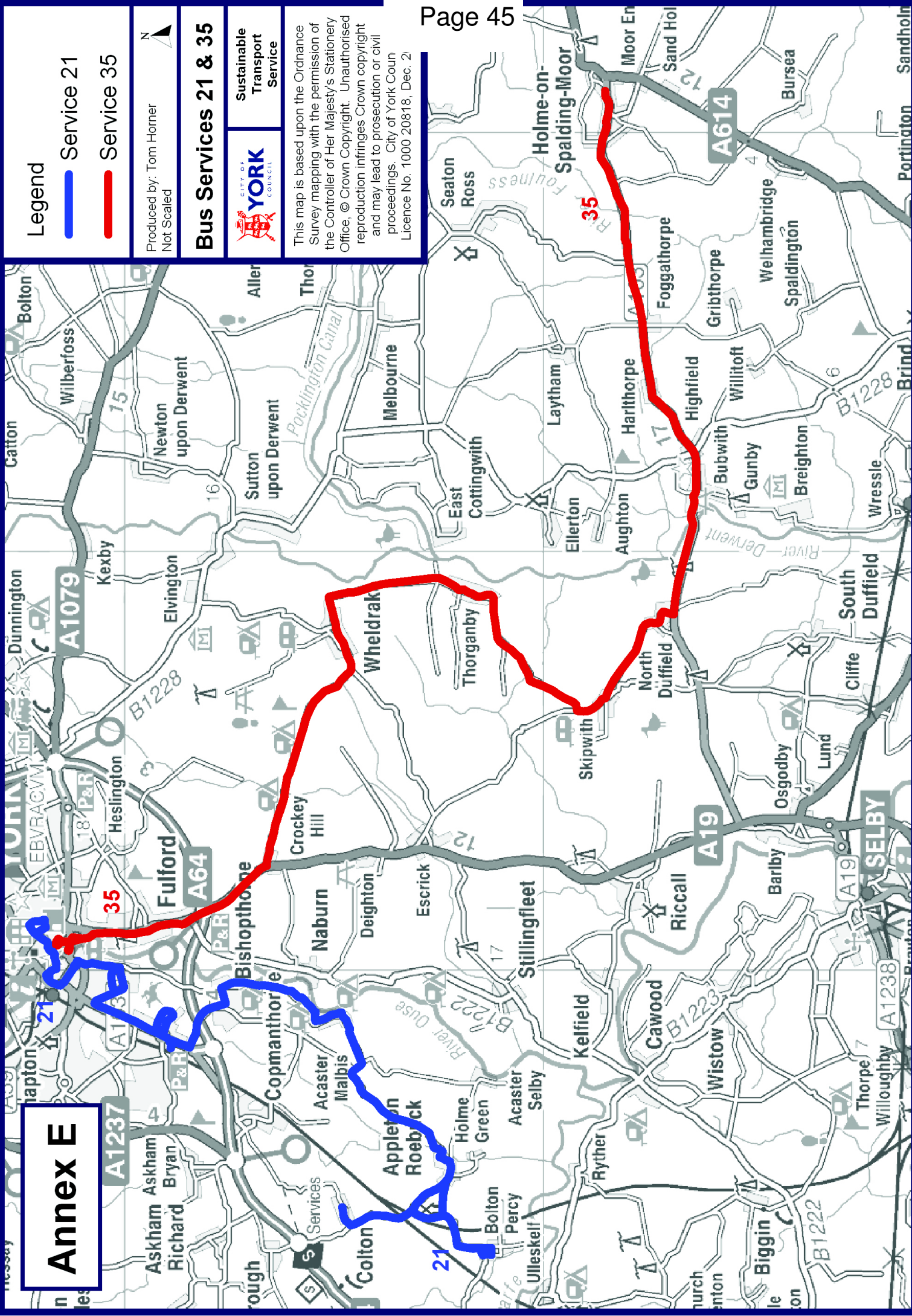
Bus Services 21 & 35



Sustainable
Transport
Service

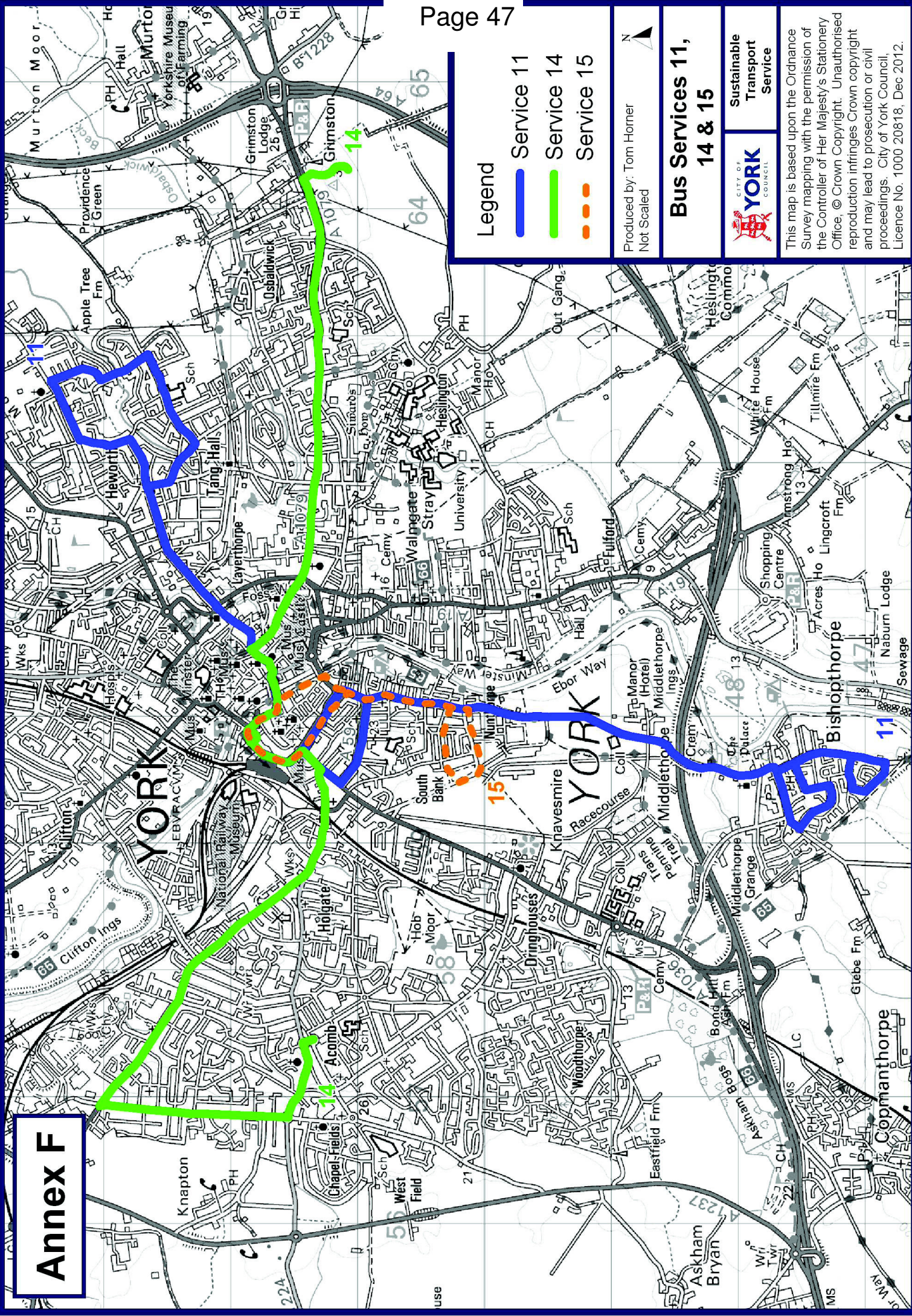
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Annex E



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Annex F



Legend

- Service 11
- Service 14
- Service 15

Produced by: Tom Horner
Not Scaled



Bus Services 11, 14 & 15

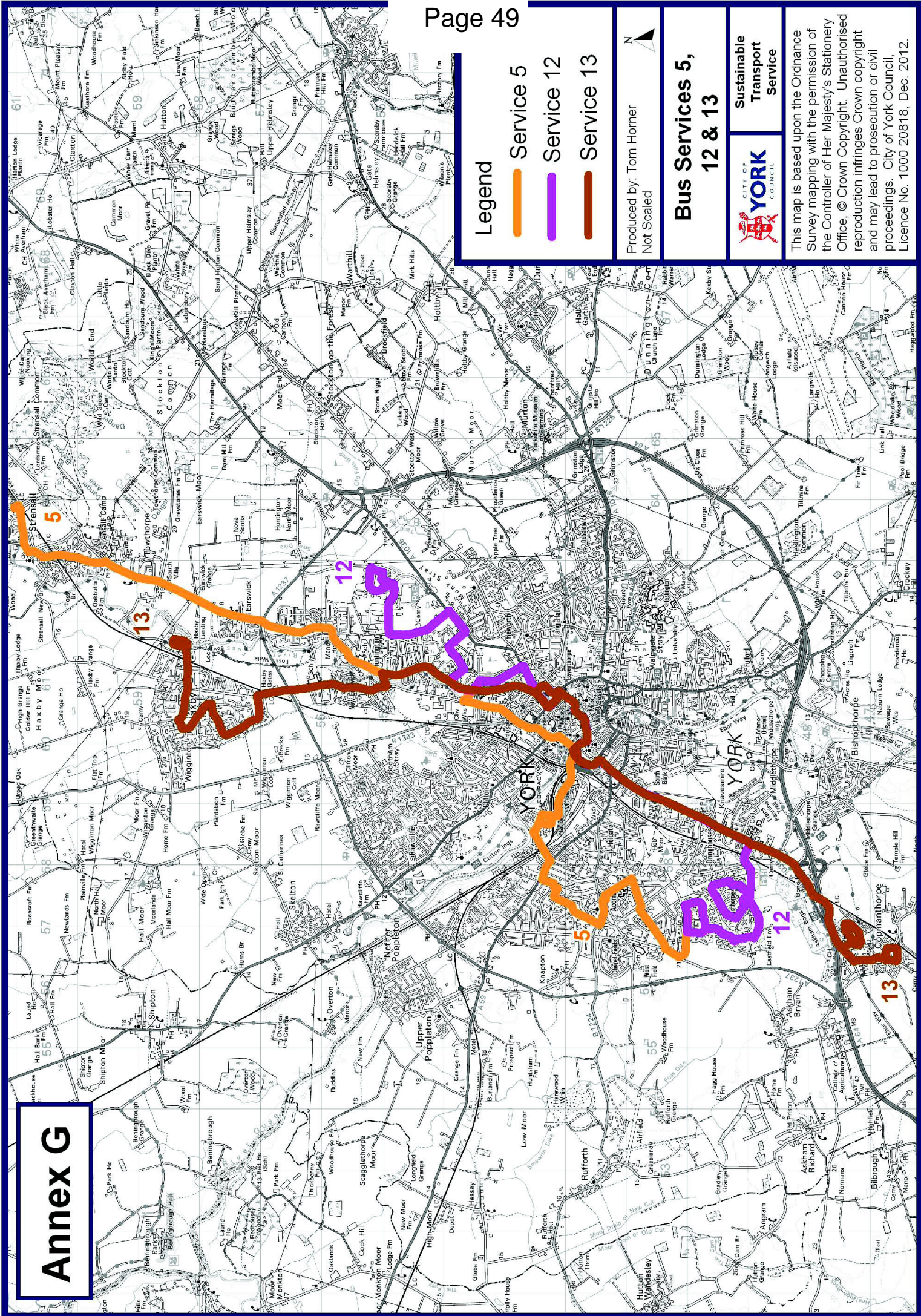


Sustainable Transport Service

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Annex G



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Annex H

Legend

- Service 15
- Service 27
- Service 24

Produced by: Tom Horner
Not Scaled

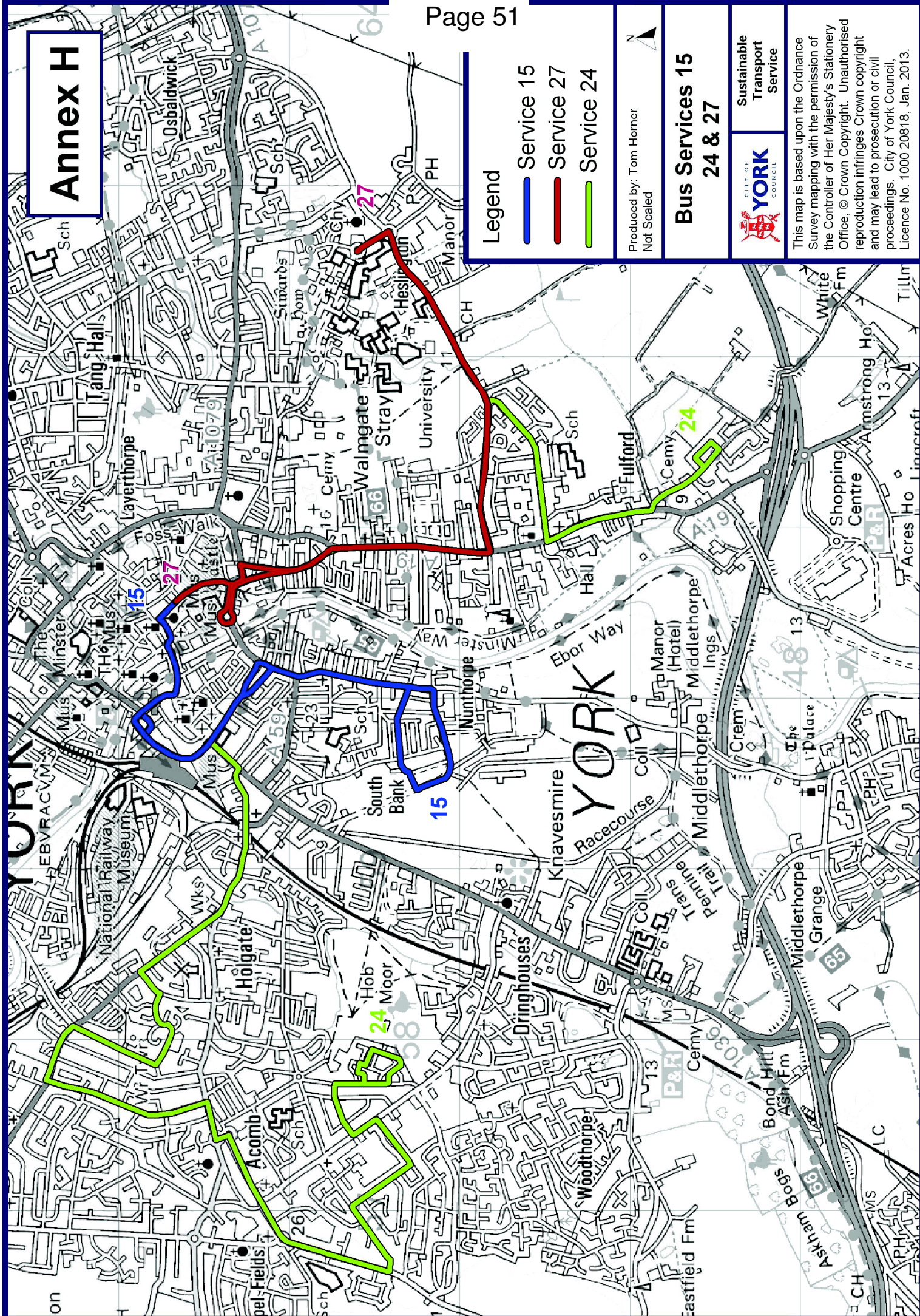


Bus Services 15 24 & 27



Sustainable
Transport
Service

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Annex J

Legend

— Existing 24/26

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Not Scaled

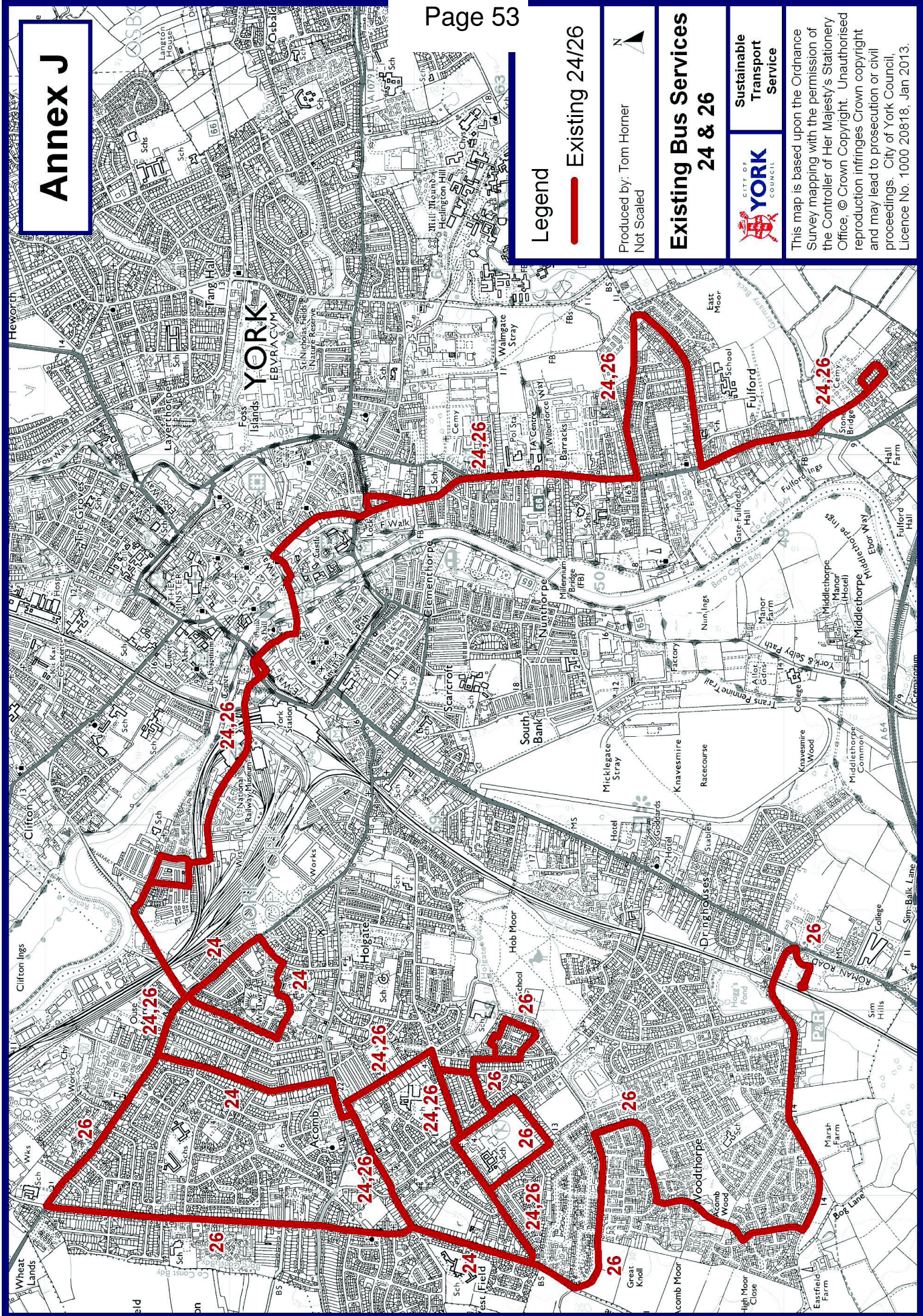


Existing Bus Services 24 & 26



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DECISION SESSION – CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY.

TUESDAY 15 January 2013

Annex of Additional Comments received from Members and the Public since the agenda was published.

AGEND A ITEM	REPORT	RECEIVED FROM	COMMENTS
4	Update on the Provision of Subsidised Bus Services.	Councillor Keith Aspden, Ward Member for Fulford Ward.	<p>It is crucial that the Number 24/26 coverage and frequency is maintained in and around Fulford. The route is a vital service for residents in my ward. Given this, I strongly support the proposal to continue to subsidise the service. I welcome the suggestion that the amended route could provide an hourly service between Fulford and Heslington Hall. This will go some way to compensating for the loss of the Number 20 service, and will provide a link between Fulford and the Sports Village. I am pleased that the concerns raised by local residents and myself have been listened to. I will continue to monitor the impact of the loss of the rest of the Number 20 route (to Monks Cross etc).</p> <p>I also welcome the recommendation to continue to support the Number 35 service at broadly its current levels of frequency and coverage. Again, this is a important service for residents in Fulford.</p>

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