

Meeting	Decision Session - Cabinet Leader, Finance & Performance
Date	19 March 2015
Present	Councillor Williams
In attendance	Councillor Fitzpatrick Councillor Healey

36. Declarations of Interest

The Cabinet Leader was asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests that he may have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

37. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Sessions held on 4 December 2014 and 19 February 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

38. Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Annex 4 of agenda item 6 (Disposal of Oliver House – Former Elderly People’s Home) on the grounds that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). This information is classed as exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as revised by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

39. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been five registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme and that two Members of Council had also registered to speak.

Ms J Thompson spoke in respect of agenda item 5 – Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme. Ms Thompson stated that she was Head of HR for York St John's University. The university had joined Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme in 2013 and this had had a massively beneficial impact, as reflected in the feedback from a staff survey. Ms Thompson stated that the programme provided an excellent framework in which to operate and be an inclusive employer.

Councillor Fitzpatrick, Diversity Champion for City of York Council, spoke in respect of agenda item 5. She expressed her support for the proposal for the Council to join the Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme. She stated that this supported the Council's aim of making York a safer place and would provide a useful template. Councillor Fitzpatrick gave details of some of the work that had taken place to make the city more inclusive, including strategies in schools to tackle homophobic bullying and the support that the Council had given to Pride each year. Joining the Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme would be the next step in this process and would be a very positive move.

Mr Mark Havercroft spoke in respect of agenda item 6 – Disposal of Oliver House – former Elderly People's Home. He stated that he was the Green Party candidate for Micklegate Ward and was speaking in support of the Yorspace bid. He stated that the community value weighting should have been higher than 20%. The Yorspace bid would be beneficial for the community and enable the local community to have an investment in the place in which they lived. It would also meet the aims in the Council Plan.

Dr Susannah Bird spoke in respect of agenda item 6. She stated that she was a founder member of Yorspace and gave details of its proposals. The fourteen properties would be environmentally sustainable dwellings and managed on a mutual homeownership model. She gave details of the benefits to the community and the local economy. Dr Bird urged that a

decision on this issue be referred to Cabinet to enable full consideration of the views put forward.

Mr James Newton spoke in respect of agenda item 6. He stated that he was a co-founder of Yorspace. He stressed the need for there to be a decent stock of affordable housing. He stated that the Yorspace bid had strong support from Bishophill residents and from the ward councillors. It would provide sustainable housing for local people and would benefit the community.

Mr Pete Kilbane spoke in respect of agenda item 6. He stated that the proposal in the report would result in luxury homes being built on the site and Bishophill would not be an affordable area in which to live. He expressed his concern at the impact on communities when complexes were gated. He stated that the Yorspace bid would be beneficial to the community and include shared space. Mr Kilbane stated that council housing should also have been considered for the site.

Councillor Healey spoke in respect of agenda item 6. He stated that he acknowledged the financial pressures that had to be taken into account but he was minded to call-in this item in order to enable there to be a full debate on the issue.

The Cabinet Leader thanked the speakers for their attendance and comments.

40. Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme

The Cabinet Leader considered a report which sought approval for City of York Council to become a member of the Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme to continue work on creating an environment where all employees were able to reach their full potential.

Officers gave details of the consultation that had taken place on this matter and the feedback that had been received.

The Cabinet Leader stated that not only was it morally right for City of York Council to become a member of the Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme but it also made economic sense. He was therefore delighted to approve the Council's membership of the programme.

- Resolved: (i) That City of York Council's membership of the Stonewall Challenge be approved.
- (ii) That it be noted that resourcing and oversight of the programme would sit with the Fairness Leadership Group with the support of Human Resources.
- (iii) That the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee be requested to monitor the programme.

Reason: To continue the work on creating an environment where all employees are able to reach their full potential.

41. Disposal of Oliver House - former Elderly People's Home

The Cabinet Leader considered a report that sought approval to select a preferred bidder for the disposal of the former Elderly Persons Home at Oliver House and the garage site to the rear.

The Cabinet Leader stated that the Oliver House site was a very valuable asset in social and financial terms. He was mindful that the capital receipt would provide funding for housing for elderly people and some of the city's most vulnerable citizens. He also acknowledged that the Yorspace bid had advantages for the community. The Cabinet Leader stated that the matter would benefit from the scrutiny of the wider Cabinet forum and hence he would refer this item for consideration at a Cabinet meeting.

Resolved: That approval of a preferred bidder for the disposal of the former Elderly Persons Home at Oliver House and the garage site to the rear be referred to the full Cabinet.

Reason: To enable wider discussion of this matter.

Cabinet Leader

[The meeting started at 12.00 pm and finished at 12.35 pm].