

## Report to Full Council from the Deputy Leader of the Council

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### 1. West Yorkshire Combined Authority

#### 2 August meeting WYCA

Key issues were Train Timetable Chaos:

Representatives from Northern Trains (Rob Warnes, Performance and Planning Director), Network Rail (Graham Botham, Strategy and Planning Director) and TransPennine Express (Graham Meiklejohn, Regional Development Manager) were questioned by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on the difficult performance of the rail services over the summer and steps which were to be taken to improve the reliability of the services. I made clear that there were many York residents who were massively inconvenienced and that, as a tourist city, York had suffered due to problems faced by visitors who were not familiar with the rail network and some would take back to their home countries the difficulties they had faced. An update report was considered at the 11<sup>th</sup> October meeting.

<https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=740>

[https://westyorks-ca.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/360891](https://westyorks-ca.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/360891)

#### 11 October Meeting WYCA

##### Capital Investment

York continues to be included in the Warmer Homes Fund Phase 2 helping to provide fuel efficient homes to older residents.

##### Brexit

The report is measured and balanced, given the current position on exit negotiations. We are supportive of the key strands – the asks of Government in respect of continuity between EU funding and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, developing support to businesses and maximising inward investment and trade opportunities

## Future operation of LEPs

Following the national review of Local Enterprise Partnerships, there have been ongoing discussions regarding the merger to create a West and North Yorkshire and York LEP. There have been moves in other parts of the country to maintain the current overlap position of some authorities between two LEPs; it is not clear whether this will result in a change of mind by central government as the intention had been to reduce the number of LEPs across the country.

## Rail Performance

Support was given for the formation of the WYCA Rail forum, which will help to ensure that a sharper and long term focus is kept on rail issues in WYCA area and maintain pressure to make improvements. The chair of the LCR LEP will be a member of the national review on Rail UK looking at franchises, which is of particular relevance to the East Coast Main Line franchise based in York.

## Chanel 4

The decision on which of the three remaining bids will be successful has not yet been announced, as this report is compiled. The progress of the LCR bid has been emphasised as one which draws on the whole city region, including York.

## **2. York Central**

Further to the Leader's report, I can report the following:

Linked to the decision by the Executive on 30<sup>th</sup> August to approve a route for the York Central Access Road and support for Leeman Road Millennium Green, a number of meetings have been held with residents and groups to review how the York Central Development can achieve the objective of being a truly exemplar sustainable development providing community facilities and being a positive development for the whole city.

I have attended some of the MyYorkCentral sessions on this and welcome the engagement by and with the wider community,

organisations and businesses, who all have a stake in the realisation of the development.

The Design Guide for York Central was considered at a joint Executive Member Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> August with a number of amendments being made in response to consultation with individual residents and groups.

These amendments sought to establish separation of cycle lanes from roads and footpaths, storage for cycles, Sustainable Urban Drainage, electric charging points for vehicles, centralising car parking off road, tree planting, encouraging photovoltaic cells on roofs, Passivhaus standards to be embedded, Low or Zero Carbon feasibility studies, an energy network and arrangements for a dedicated person to champion equalities issues to help co-ordinate input from the wide range of groups in the city.

Reports to the Executive were requested to deal with the operation of the public realm and community buildings within the York Central scheme to respond to the ongoing debate in the city.

The planning process will cover the issue of the minimum widths of cycle lanes not detailed in the York Central Design Guide and each planning application relating to transport will need to demonstrate the application of the hierarchy of transport users.

### **3. Brexit Contingency meeting with Partners**

A discussion was held on 17<sup>th</sup> August with a wide range of partners to start the process of planning a contingency for a range of outcomes including “No Deal Brexit” and other issues relating to the consequences of changes to trading arrangements, availability of investment following the ending of EU regional funding and the access to information by Small and Medium Enterprises to ensure that they are able to operate with the minimum amount of disruption. Emergency Plans have been developed with partners to respond to situations required of the Police, Army and Council under civil contingency planning requirements.

#### **4. Forgotten Corners and boosting of street sweeping**

Awards totalling £100,000 were given to 25 different projects at an Executive Member Decision session on 17<sup>th</sup> September to improve otherwise neglected areas of the city and to assist community groups in bringing pride into their local part of the city. This came from an allocation of some of the underspend of the 2017/18 budget as part of the investment to improve our city.



Two additional mechanical street sweepers have been introduced, together with a large vacuum to tackle litter issues and following work with the manufacturers of the large existing street sweeper, the street washing attachment is back in use.

#### **5. 20th September Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership**

- This month sees the soft launch of the Energy Accelerator for Leeds City Region
- Review of Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy
- Zero Carbon Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan
- North East, Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub, of which LCR is part of the bid.

## **6. Green Spaces Policy progress**

The Executive on 27<sup>th</sup> September approved the progression of Supplementary Planning Documents for the local plan with prioritisation of the two SPDs relating to Affordable Housing and Green Infrastructure. The latter had been requested by the Executive at the November 2017 Call-In meeting in response to concerns over the loss of recreational and other open green space within the urban core of the city.

## **7. Flood Resilience Roadshow at Rowntree Park**

At the display organised by the Environment Agency on 29<sup>th</sup> September the Council's Emergency Planning Team were on hand to speak to members of the public and there were displays of domestic Property Flood Resilience (PRF) products, with examples of the metal demountable barriers for Clementhorpe and glass barriers for parts of the city centre including terraces around Scarborough Bridge. Officers are working on an ongoing project to support residents as they make choices about the PFR measures that they make in their own homes as some areas such as South Bank and New Walk Terrace are being consulted in this first wave of implementation.





## 8. Flood Defence

The council continues to work with the Environment Agency for the works that are ongoing for the major upgrade to flood defences in the city. Update reports were provided at the July meeting of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee with early financial reviews of the funding gap for the 6 year capital programme following the current period which ends in 2020/21. I am pressing for an early plan to ensure that the region has sufficient funding for new schemes and that maintenance budgets are sustained.

Consultation has taken place with the Agency on holding flood water to the north of Strensall and investigation of groundworks in that area to assist the plans for where such storage could be constructed has been done by consultants.

Work is ongoing in response to the August 13<sup>th</sup> surface water flooding event in the city with officers working with partners to help improve drainage issues. I have met with Directors from Yorkshire Water to enhance joint working with officers in the council.



## **Citizen Space**

Citizen space is an online consultation platform which contains information on the flood scheme. An interactive map provides residents with access to information on each of the 19 flood cells throughout the city, with more information being added as the project progresses.

The Citizen Space Page can be found here: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/yorkfas/>

## **9. Armistice Day 100 Event at York Minster**

A thousand primary school pupils were engaged with the York Minster launch on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at an event to start the 6 week commemoration of the end of World War I. There were activities to help young people understand the experiences and personal histories of York people who died in the duration of the War from a wide range of roles.

## **10. Proud to serve**

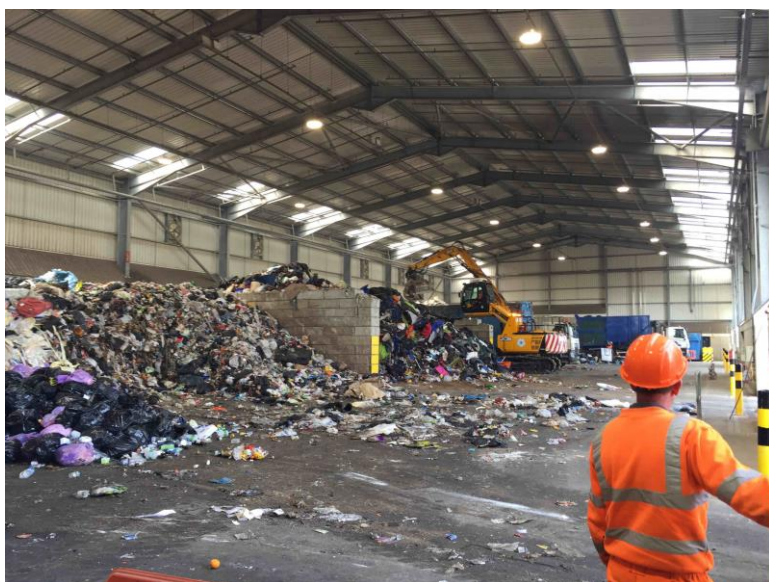


We have launched a campaign around the importance of our front line services evidenced by the front cover of the latest 'Our City'.

The same imagery and campaign style was used in conjunction with sessions in the city centre as well as open days at the depot to recruit

additional drivers. As has been quoted in many specialist publications there is a shortage of between 25,000 and 30,000 HGV drivers across the whole country and this has affected our services this year. Proactive decisions limited this to green waste to ensure that the statutory services were delivered.

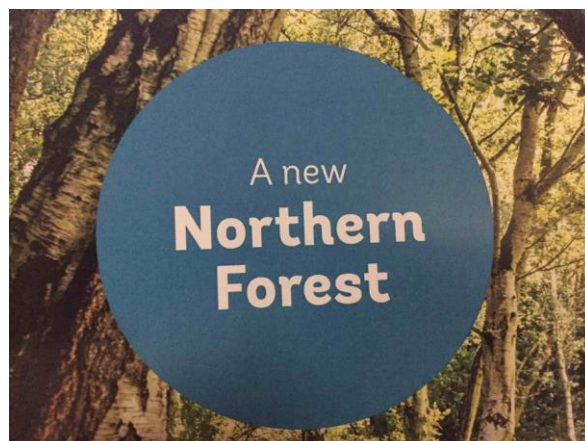
Initial work has begun to look at what the composition of fleet will be in the future to respond to the demands placed on it and to help take the lead with the Clean Air Zone with as many vehicles as possible within the city centre being electric as early as possible.



A step change to the way that waste is treated will be marked with the formal closure of Harewood Whin tip as the Allerton Park facility has fully come on line. Above is a photo of the large waste transfer station at Harewood Whin as waste from York and surrounding areas is collated for transport to Allerton Park. Work is ongoing to broaden the range of materials collected for recycling.

## **11. Regional Launch of Northern Forest**

I attended the regional launch on 13<sup>th</sup> October of the Northern Forest which will include York as there is considerable interest with urban trees



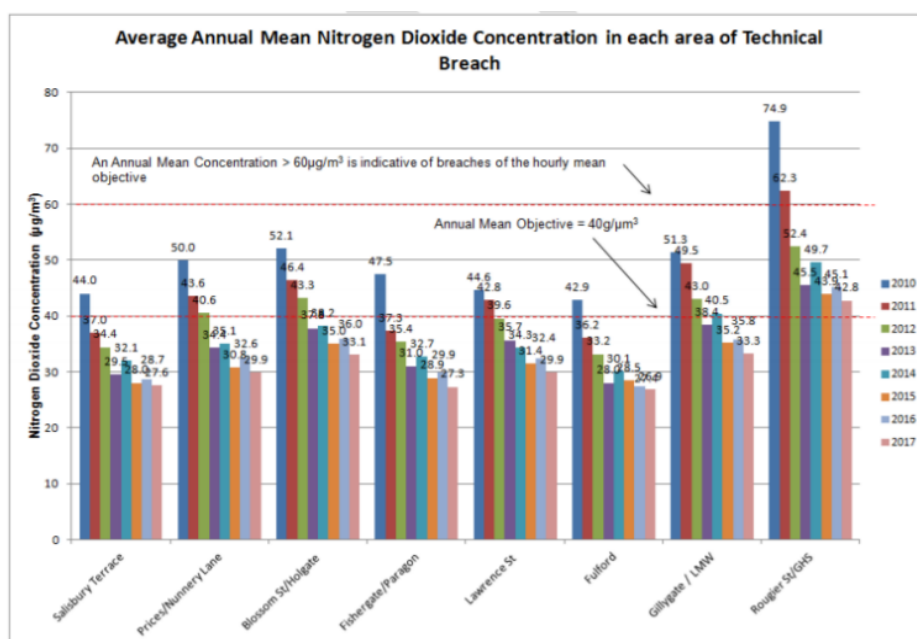


as well as supporting more planting in other areas to assist with flood alleviation, carbon capture, and habitat creation (whilst maintaining the existing small amounts of very precious ancient woodland). The York contingent was boosted by the local Tremendous group with whom I hope that the council can progress schemes to plant, as the Woodland Trust put it “the right tree in the right place”.

## 12. Air Quality

Consultation took place on the Clean Air Zone over the summer with the outcome coming to the Executive later this year. I would like to thank the officers who have analysed the large number of responses.

Representation has been made alongside other councils for additional funding to deliver the work needed for clean air zones. The Decision Session in October received the annual update on Air Quality plans which had been well received by DEFRA.



## 13. Community Centres Update and 4CommunityGrowthYork

I would like to thank the volunteers at community centres who work to keep them flourishing across the city and the growth of the Hubs service which has been expanding out of Sanderson House. This has provided support and advice for residents in need of help. The 4CommunityGrowthYork Project Team, Communities and Equalities

Team, Business Intelligence, Benefits and Adult Social Care Team, Youth Offending Team, Housing Management Team, Financial Inclusion Steering Group and University of York Interns.

External groups include Citizens Advice York, Healthwatch, Peasholme Charity, Aspire Igen, St Luke's Church, St Oswald's Church, Chapelfields Community Association, Bell Farm Community Association and Foxwood Community Centre Management Committee.

A mid-term evaluation of the 4CommunityGrowthYork project has been undertaken and will be reported to an Executive Member Decision Session.

In anticipation of the reprovision of the Burton Stone Community Centre, groups have been relocated, with works underway for demolition of the current building estimated for January 2019, with the new community space aiming to be open in Summer 2020.

All other community centres are operating well under the terms of the leases. Investment recently has seen:

- Bell Farm have reopened the changing place
- External decoration of Bell Farm and Sanderson House
- Tang Hall have completed their refurbishment, which has created a new changing place toilet facility and a new office
- Foxwood are getting new windows/doors later in the year.

#### **14. Summer Events**

Throughout the Summer the council has been involved and supported a large number of events including the Mystery Plays on Wagons which was partly supported through the Business Rates pilot along with the Mediale.



The success of the Rose Theatre demonstrated what can be achieved with a more sympathetic use of the area around Cliffords Tower.



Councillor Andrew Waller – 16 October 2018