

Reference: Council Executive

Meeting date: 3rd March 2026

Subject: 10. City Centre Events and Permanent Anti Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order (ATTRO)

Statement by: Andrew Lowson, Executive Director, York BID.

Dear Members,

The York BID has welcomed being part of the task and finish group established to look at city centre events and how they strike a balance with accessibility and security.

We have attended four of the groups to date and we have been encouraged by the desire to look at both short and long term solutions.

Short term solutions have included reviewing additional blue badge parking provision and market operational hours. Long term solutions have included looking at a permanent ATTRO case study from Chester – a solution that has provided this town with a system that allows good access for blue badge holders, is overseen by the towns safety advisory group and as a result has not experienced any unexpected police interventions in the two years it has been operational.

We support the recommendation for a consultation on a permanent ATTRO. We do so whilst urging to Council to ensure communications on this subject are proactive and robust. It has been noted in the media that some campaign groups have already interpreted the terminology as a hindrance to accessing the city, where in fact the intention of a permanent ATTRO (which can be activated/ de-activated at agreed times throughout a year) is designed to provide improved and more consistent access.

Recommendations on increasing blue badge parking we see as positive, although we also understand the lack of available options makes this a more limited exercise than we would all like.

One concern that we have is that in all the meetings to date, there has been no police presence. This concern has been raised by York BID and several partners. We feel we have good working relationships with local police officers, but decisions around counter terrorism require specialist officers with relevant powers and skill sets. In the last meeting, I was tasked with contacting the relevant senior Officers to engage them with this task and finish process. Whilst York BID is not leading this process, it is something I have undertaken and I am awaiting a response. Our pressing concern is that because a key partner has been missing, the papers that Council Exec are considering tonight do not contain what I believe to be the necessary input from North Yorkshire Police, which is surely crucial? I am hopeful that this will be remedied going forward and trust the Executive will not make any definitive decisions without this input.

We would like to reiterate the importance of the Christmas Markets and the wider events programme to the general economic health of York City Centre. York BID will continue to engage with CYC and partners in the belief that with the right partners talking to one another, we can find solutions for all.