

Shadow Executive comments on Executive business for 6th October

Forward plan - next meeting

Officers required for:

- More for York Progress Report
- Corporate Asset Management Update Report

Item 5 - Green Jobs Task Force

The Shadow Executive:

- Recommends that the council practices as it preaches, and looks at greening the organisation, for example, greener vehicles and improving the efficiency of its buildings, irrespective of the proposed move to a new HQ eg. Guildhall
- Supports the recommendation, however the Executive should note:-

It needs to adopt a definition of a 'green job' in order to measure success. There are three different strands:-

- existing jobs which become 'green' by lowering their carbon emissions
 - existing jobs that change their product to become 'green'
 - new jobs in green industries that are green though their processes
- Suggests CYC needs to take a positive lead and set distinct and measurable targets for itself to become a low carbon emitter
 - Believes CYC should promote households becoming low emission households by co-ordinating and underwriting large scale schemes of insulation and boiler replacement.
 - Believes the Executive should look to new innovative funding mechanisms funded by savings achieved/promised.
 - Highlights para 4 of the report not stating what steps are being taken to identify skills gaps and training opportunities - these need to be done as a matter of urgency.
 - Believes the council needs to move quickly to ensure that York is seen as the place to be - other cities are competing.
 - Notes it has taken almost 9 months for this report to come forward.

Item 6 - Revised Financial Regulations

The Shadow Executive:

- Opposes underspends remaining within directorates. To have them retained in this way encourages planned surpluses being built into directorate budgets and appropriate savings will not be achieved.
- Recommends setting up a Leisure Reserve, where any council budget underspend will be redirected for future swimming provision - see Item 7
- Reiterates its comments when the report was presented to the Executive in July:

The Shadow Executive is concerned that the major change in the officer delegation levels represent a massive shift in power from members to officers - Directors would now have the power to move the equivalent of 4% of Council Tax).

The Shadow Executive asks what is the justification for not having these decisions taken through a democratic forum?

Item 7 - Swimming Facilities

The Shadow Executive:

- Believes this report shows a wasted opportunity
- Has concerns about the future and this administration's commitment to swimming provision at both Yearsley and Waterworld .
- Has concerns on the university pool, and queries the complex design of the building in terms of its overall cost
- Recommends that the vision for a city centre pool be moved forward now - not in 2015
- Recommends that a proper study be commissioned to look at sites and designs. Recommends the allocation of up to £100,000 from reserves to fund this.
- Recommends creating a Leisure Reserve funded by a proportion of any departmental/CYC underspends to be used for the new city centre pool and/or repairs to existing pools.
- Asks the Executive to state clearly and without further prompting, when the pool at the University should be built by and at what date they will withdraw the £2m of CYC funding.