



APSE: Building Back Better

CLLR KEITH ASPDEN

LEADER OF CITY OF YORK
COUNCIL

Introduction to York

- ❖ Sunday Times: Best place to live in the UK;
- ❖ Opportunities in York Central and growing employment, growing wages, fastest growing GVA in the region;
- ❖ £50m of goods and services procured from local SMEs in 2019;
- ❖ 8m visitors a year, 40% coming by train;
- ❖ Major regeneration projects, like York Central;
- ❖ 2000 years of heritage.





York's Strengths

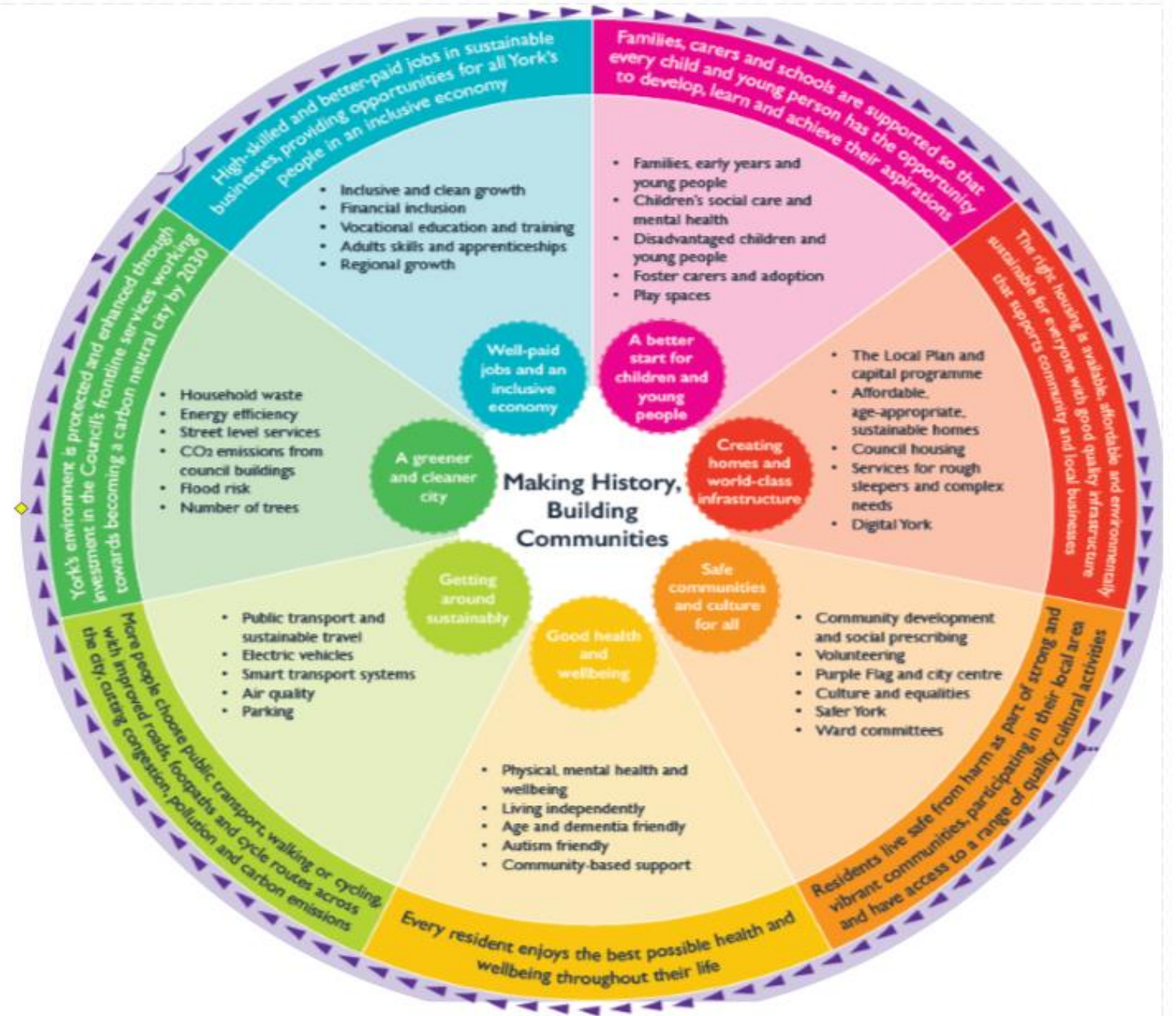
- ❖ The city has seen significant growth in key sectors over the last 20 years. Our businesses are identified in regional, and pan-northern economic strategies as being key opportunities for the Northern Powerhouse, including a wide range of services sectors such as Bio-tech and life sciences; Rail engineering; IT and digital; Financial and professional.
- ❖ Alongside this, York has a strong local education sector with high performing schools, a Russell Group research university, a regional teaching university, and 2 strong further education colleges.
- ❖ York is in the top quartile for all Local Authorities for Progress 8. 73.6% of York's 16 year olds leaving Secondary school in summer 2019 achieved a standard grade (9-4) in both English and Maths. This is above the National average (65.7%).
- ❖ York also has a highly qualified workforce, with 49.1% of the working-age population qualified at level 4 or above, a greater proportion than any other city in the North.
- ❖ York's leading-edge digital infrastructure, excellent transport connectivity, and desirable quality of place means that the city is well positioned to lead York and North Yorkshire's economic recovery.



Council Plan 2019-2023

Making History, Building Communities:

- A greener and cleaner city
- Good health and wellbeing
- A better start in life for children and young people
- Well paid jobs and an inclusive economy
- Getting around sustainably
- Creating homes and world class infrastructure
- Safe communities and culture for all
- An open and effective council



Impact of Coronavirus

- ❖ York has been dealing with the challenges of Coronavirus since January 2020, with the first cases in the UK being declared in the city;
- ❖ The impact across all aspects of life has been significant, changing the way services can be delivered. Thousands of Council staff have had to change how they work overnight, with many continuing to work from home. Services have had to be dialled down, and then dialled up, as national guidance evolved – for example, waste services;
- ❖ Our immediate response prioritised frontline services and support the most vulnerable in the city, particularly via the creation of 9 community hubs across the city;
- ❖ The Council also focused on providing immediate support to local businesses through Government Grants, and the Business Rates relief scheme, to ensure that money was in businesses' bank accounts as quickly as possible. Over £100M has been paid out in direct grants or in business rates relief. This includes the £1 million local emergency fund created by the Council to assist micro-businesses who fell outside the remit of Government support.
- ❖ The financial impact on the Council has been significant, with a forecast budget gap of £23m.



Our Coronavirus response in numbers



Thank you to everyone who is continuing to support each other through this crisis.

Data correct as of 27 May 2020



93% of grants paid – one of the fastest paying councils in the UK



Daily contact with York care homes with advice and support



Number of people joining libraries **quadrupled** compared to the month before



Thousands of residents supported from our 9 community hubs



Over 23,000 volunteer hours deployed across 493 volunteer tasks



2 live Facebook Q&A's with over 8,700 views and over 20,700 reached



Over 3,000 calls to the COVID-19 helpline



More than 6,000 businesses helped



At least 2,100 children have been provided with free school meals



5,000 views per week for newspapers and magazines on the online Press Reader via Explore



£18,539 worth of food vouchers given to 130 vulnerable residents



84% fall in retail and recreation visits and 56% drop in visits to parks



5 direct mail shots sent to all 96,000 households



More than 1,500 emails to the COVID-19 mailbox responded to



Over £110 million grants and reliefs awarded



87% of schools are open for vulnerable children and children of key workers



Increase of 141% in ebook issues via Explore



Over 2,700 help responses at the request of residents



876 food parcels delivered to residents



More than 1,500 signed up to receive our e-newsletter updates



Over 325,000 visits to the council COVID-19 web pages since April



Let's be safe
Let's be welcoming
Let's be considerate
Let's be York

Shop, relax, explore and work

1-Year Recovery and Renewal Strategy

- ❖ The Council has developed a Recovery and Renewal Strategy, focussing on the short-term recovery of the city. The Strategy describes the key areas of focus for the coming year for the council, in order to prioritise recovery for the city and to build back better.
- ❖ Within the plan, there is a One-Year Transport and Place Strategy, which ensures that the city can safely support visitors as the economy reopens, as well as continue to promote more sustainable methods of transport, as part of our work to tackle the climate emergency.
- ❖ The strategy also looks to combine the efforts of the council, partner organisations, the voluntary sector, communities and residents to continue providing crucial support to vulnerable residents.
- ❖ We have launched our Let's Be York campaign, which aims to build the confidence of residents and visitors to once again, shop and visit local businesses. This includes the creation of new social distancing signage in the city and a digital toolkit.

Let's be York
Safe Welcoming Considerate



Photo credit: Anthony Chappel-Ross



A People Focused City

- ❖ A one-year Transport and Place Strategy has been produced to underpin the city's economic recovery and secure the active transport benefits that have been seen during the initial lockdown. This strategy follows five key strands:
 - Create a people focused city centre.
 - Prioritise active transport.
 - Promote a complimentary park > walk > visit strategy using council car parks outside the people focused city centre.
 - Maintain confidence in public transport.
 - Support the city's secondary centres.
- ❖ To date, actions carried out under the strategy include:
 - A phased extension of the city centre footstreets, with staffed barriers to assist the public;
 - Increased disabled parking provided at Monk Bar car park;
 - Public toilets reopened, with additional temporary toilets plumbed into certain areas of the city;
 - Launch of our Let's Be York campaign to provide information, signage and support for all residents, visitors and businesses.



Let's be York

Opening up the city
for everyone to
enjoy – safely

We've made some
changes through the city
to help us all – **look out
for signs and
guides.**



Let's be York

Safe Welcoming Considerate

Let's be safe

Wash our hands regularly

Observe social distancing – outside and inside

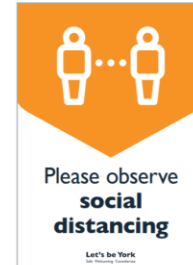
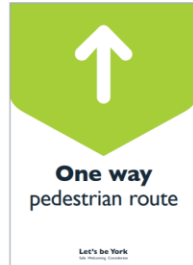
Let's protect each other

Let's be welcoming

We've opened up more pedestrian areas
and spaces

Look out for one way walking streets and signs
and maps to plan your routes

Let's park > walk > visit



Let's be considerate

Use the queue markings outside and inside shops

Respect each other

Be patient and show your support for local
businesses while they adapt.

Let's support our businesses

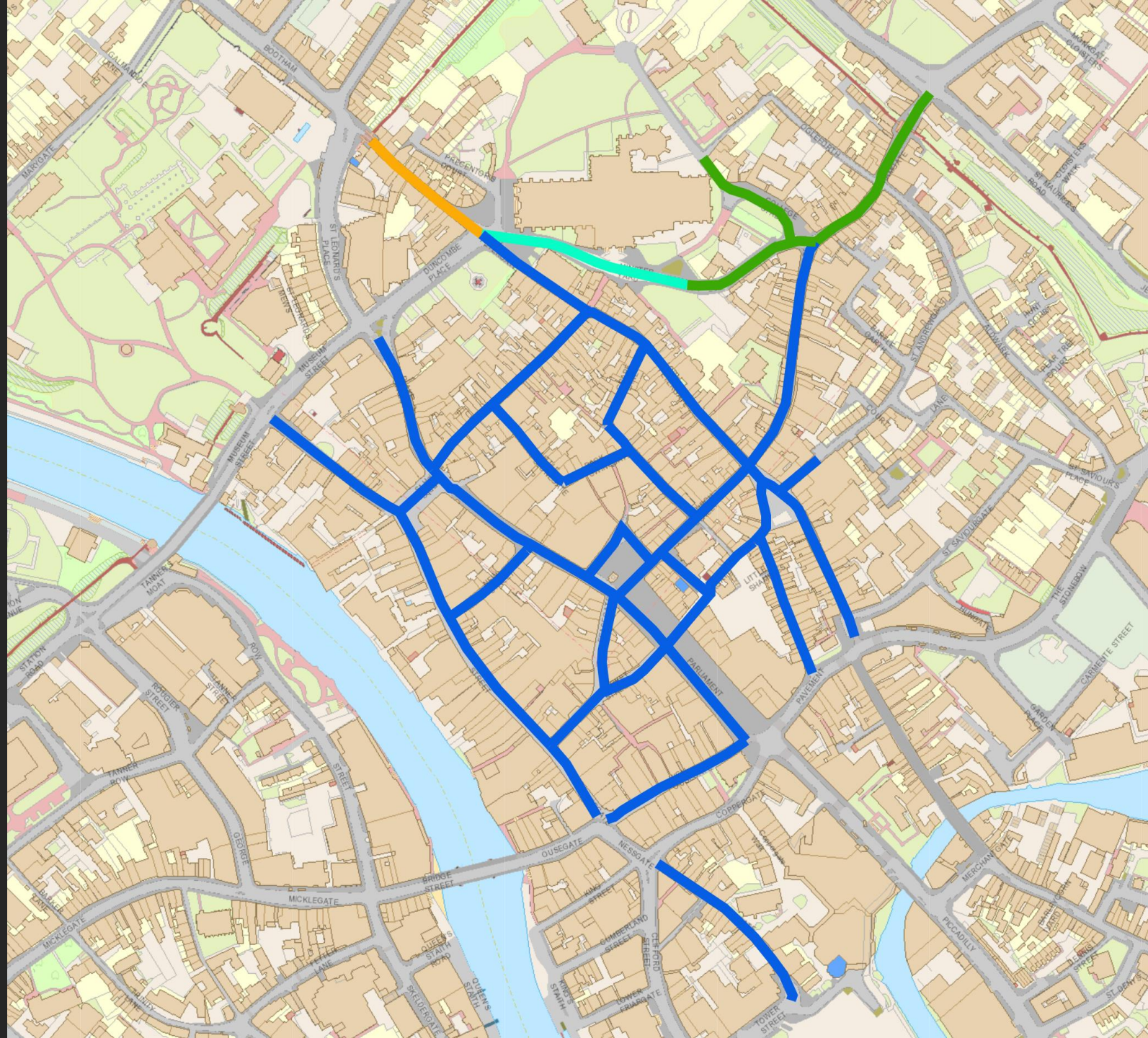
**For more information and to help us open up
York together, please visit our website:**

www.york.gov.uk/letsbeyork



Footstreet Extension

- ❖ York has one of the largest pedestrian zones in Europe;
- ❖ Many areas within York city centre are designated as pedestrian footstreets, with restrictions to vehicle access between certain times of the day, or 24 hours a day in some areas;
- ❖ Pedestrian footstreets create a safer and more attractive city centre and reduce inner city pollution;
- ❖ We undertook a review of York's pedestrianised area to ensure that residents and visitors can safely access the footstreets during the economic recovery from coronavirus, particularly as national restrictions lifted and the city centre became busier.





Building Back Better: the Climate Emergency

- ❖ As part of our Recovery work, City of York Council has outlined its ambition to Build Back Better, and an important aspect of this objective is to Build Back Greener;
- ❖ Since the new administration was formed in May 2019, we have prioritised investment in tackling the climate emergency, including launching the UK's first voluntary Clean Air Zone, investing £1.5 million in Hyper Hub technology to provide rapid electric vehicle charging, and using £300K to create a Climate Change Delivery Programme within the Council;
- ❖ Building Back Greener is a key feature of the Recovery and Renewal Strategy, and also a pillar of the developing 10 Year City Plan. Over the last few months, we have:
 - Secured 21 new all-electric double-deckers enter service on the York Park & Ride network. The full order of Metrodecker EVs, manufactured by Optare in Yorkshire, will be brought into operation this summer, replacing existing diesel vehicles in an investment totalling £9.3m and expanding the fully electric fleet on York Park & Ride to 33 buses
 - Approved proposals in August to create a new community woodland, which could see 50,000 trees planted in York by 2023.



10-Year City Plan

- ❖ We recognised that to build back better, the Council could not achieve this alone and instead, we needed to develop a strategy that the Council and its partners could collectively own in order to improve the lives of everyone who lives, works, studies or in the city, for the long term, our 10 Year City Plan.
- ❖ To create this strategy and ensure its success, we know that we must build on the strengths that are unique to York. From our city's history and culture, to utilising the expertise in our innovative biotech industry, and seizing the once in a lifetime regeneration opportunity in York Central; there are opportunities in York that many other cities and towns would envy.
- ❖ The plan will represent the distinctive qualities of York and focus on a number of key challenges that can best be addressed at a city level. These are likely to include the linking of our education, skills and innovation sectors to support employment, further develop the city's response to climate change and ensuring a 'people focused' city, utilising York's unique culture and heritage, and promoting a public health approach.



10-Year City Plan: York Central

- ❖ York's big opportunity & a key project for the regional economy;
- ❖ 2,500 homes / 6,500 jobs / space for our key industries;
- ❖ New public spaces, community facilities, enhanced National Railway Museum & improved rail station interchange;
- ❖ £77.1 million secured in the March 2020 Budget;
- ❖ Reserved Matters Application submitted in April 2020;
- ❖ With the impact of Covid-19 – Now more important than ever to progress the scheme and drive clean, inclusive growth.







10-Year City Plan: Back York

- ❖ Whilst we continue to face significant financial challenges, we have stepped up our regional and national lobbying efforts to urge the Government to Back York by seizing the opportunities that are unique to York and making the city an exemplar of recovery.
- ❖ To truly build back better and lead ‘recovery’ in the North of England, we need funding from central Government to unlock York’s potential and build on the work already taking place in the city.
- ❖ With additional funding, we could support local businesses further in adapting to the crisis; enhance York’s world-renowned culture and heritage by supporting local museums and libraries; scale up the support on offer to residents facing financial hardship; provide much needed funding for small charities and voluntary sector organisations; and speed up the delivery of critical regeneration projects and citywide infrastructure schemes, from York Central, to the dualling of York Outer Ring Road.
- ❖ The campaign will support and link up with the work of other organisations and Councils who are lobbying for further funding for local authorities, including the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, IPPR North, the Association of Directors of Children’s Services and more.



Questions?

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