

# 2020-21 City of York Council Budget

## Investing in our communities

City of York Council continues to face significant financial challenges as demand for Council services grows and funding from the Conservative Government declines. The Council's Revenue Support Grant, which had previously totalled over £58 million in 2007, has now been reduced to £0. 2018 and 2019 have also seen tremendous financial pressure placed on York's Adult Social Care system, placing further strain on the Council's finances.

In response to these challenges, Liberal Democrat Councillors have worked hard to ensure that the Council Budget continues significant investment in our priority areas; protecting frontline services, tackling the climate emergency, investing in our young people and supporting the services which protect some of the most vulnerable in our city.

### ***What's new in the 2020/21 Budget?***

#### **Over £1 million to create a new Neighbourhood Street Service**

The Council will create a new 'Neighbourhood Street Service' to tackle a variety of local issues, from fly-tipping, to improving waste collections and protecting grass verges. This new investment will ensure the Council can respond swiftly and proactively, ensuring our streets are cleaner and greener.

#### **Over £4.5 million for Adult Social Care**

Whilst the Government fails to get to grips with the crisis in adult social care, we are investing £4.7 million into our Adult Social Care services to ensure that those services can continue to support elderly and vulnerable residents and prevent needless admissions to York Hospital.

#### **Over £4 million to begin to tackle the climate emergency**

Over £4 million will be invested to kick-start new initiatives on reducing carbon emissions in the city. This includes £200K to update the Local Transport Plan, £300K for the development of a Climate Change Delivery Programme, and £3 million to support the development of the Northern Forest over a number of years.

#### **Over £700K to give young people a better start**

Over £700K is being used to invest in the city's young people, including £500K to improve school accessibility, £30K for Early Years support schemes, £50K of investment to deliver early mental health support, and over £40K to create a series of summer school projects.

#### **An additional £12 million to fix and improve our roads**

A further £12 million has been added to our highways budget to increase the scale and speed of improvements to our road network over the coming years. This will include the creation of a dedicated Pothole Repair Team.

## ***What's being protected in the 2020/21 Budget?***

In addition to the new investment we have secured, it is important to remember that the 2020-21 Council Budget will be securing the future of a number of crucial projects in the city, as well as protecting vital Council services.

At a time where Council's up and down the country are having to make incredibly difficult decisions, such as closing libraries or slowing down regeneration, we are continuing...

### **Investment in our communities and ward committees**

Since entering into administration of the Council in 2015, we have released up to nearly £1 million annually for local ward committees. The 2020-21 Budget also continues our 'Safer Communities' Fund, which allows local communities to access funding to help make their local area safer.

### **Protecting every library in York**

We have protected every Library in York over the next 14 years by securing a total of £32 million in our libraries. This Budget will see that investment continue as we look to create new libraries at the Community Stadium and Haxby, as well as a £4 million programme to modernise Clifton and Acomb libraries.

### **Investment in our frontline services**

York's frontline services have always been a key priority for Liberal Democrat Councillors and this Budget ensures that over £25 million over coming years will be used to improve the city's highways network, including fixing our roads, improving drainage and replacing old street lighting.

### **To build new and affordable homes**

Last year, we embarked on the largest Council-led house building scheme since the 1970's, as well as progressing the draft Local Plan to public examination. The 2020-21 Council Budget will ensure that work on the Housing Delivery Programme continues at pace and that we are ready to adopt our balanced Local Plan for the city.

### **Delivering Major Projects**

The 2020-21 Council Budget ensures that significant investment is ring-fenced to significantly regenerate key parts of the city, including York Central, Castle Gateway, the Guildhall, the Older Person's Accommodation Programme and the Community Stadium.

**York Liberal Democrats**  
**Working for You. Working for York.**