

New council houses being built in York

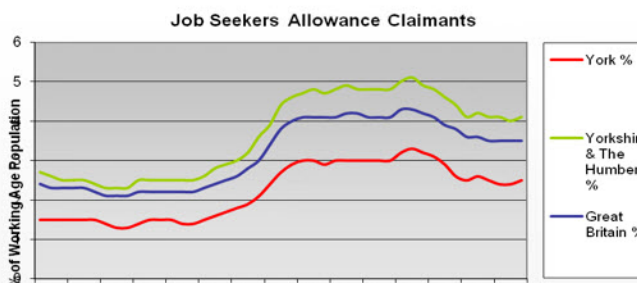


Construction work has begun on York's first new council houses in over 20 years. Lilbourne Drive in Clifton. The homes will be built to top environmental standards to help reduce the energy needed to heat the homes and to save residents money on fuel bills. Work is already underway and the homes are expected to be complete by Spring 2012.

Action on jobs

Despite the difficult economic conditions, York's economy has continued to outperform the rest of the region.

Local unemployment levels have been consistently lower than regional and national figures and the city is recognised as the strongest performing economy in the North.



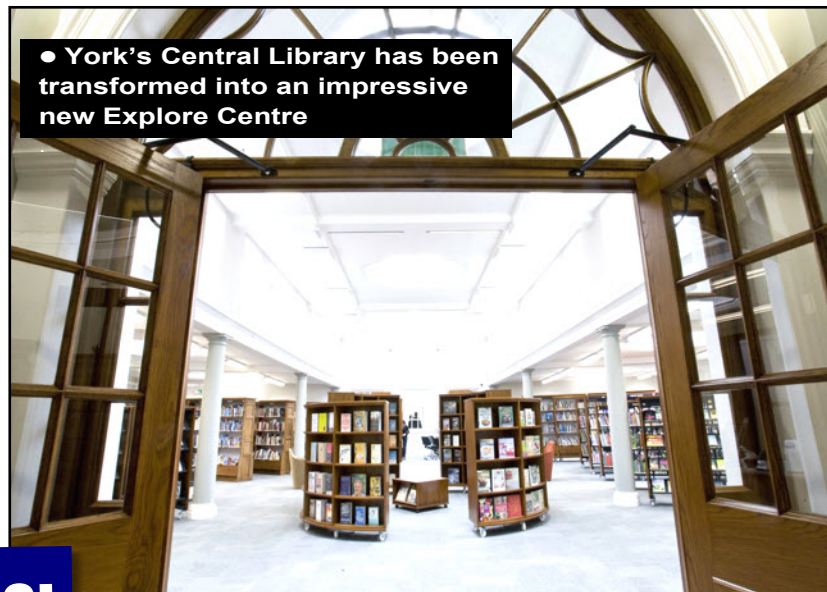
Part of that success has been put down to local Lib Dem action on the Council. Local people have been helped by through the tough economic times by a range of initiatives including providing help with finding jobs and advice on managing budgets.

Special arrangements have been made to help local businesses work with the Council both as regular suppliers or on big projects like the new Council headquarters.

New libraries - a big success

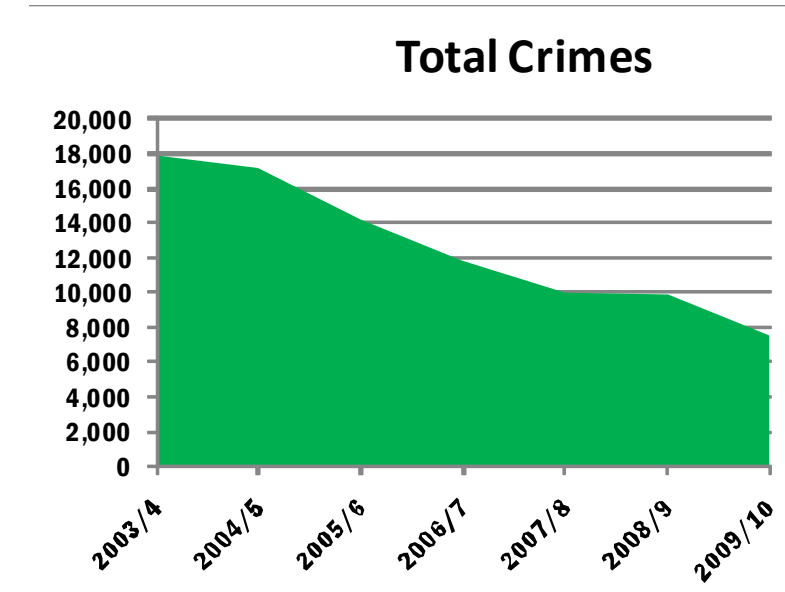
York's libraries are going from strength to strength with figures showing the city as one of the only places in the country where the number of library users is increasing. Investment from City of York Council and an innovative partnership with Aviva has seen three of the city's libraries transformed into Explore Centres.

The Lib Dems have pledged to maintain the number of libraries in the city, despite many other Councils closing their libraries.



York's Central Library has been transformed into an impressive new Explore Centre

Crime falling across the city



Tackling crime, and the fear of crime, across York continues to be a top priority for the local Lib Dems. Close working between the Council and local Neighbourhood Policing teams has seen crime fall by more than 50% since 2003.

Cllr Andrew Waller said: "We will continue to do all we can to make sure the most vulnerable in our city are protected from crime."

Recycling up to record levels



New boxes are helping York increase recycling and cut landfill taxes.

Latest figures show recycling rates in York have risen massively over the last 8 years. Almost 45% of household waste across the city is now reused, composted or recycled and the amount of waste produced overall has fallen.

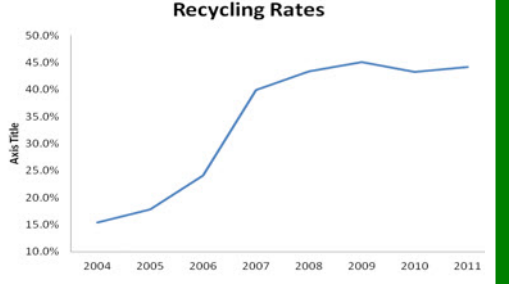
The rise comes after the Lib Dems on the council introduced kerbside recycling facilities, that will be available to almost all houses in the city by the end of March this year.

MASSIVE EFFORT BY LOCAL PEOPLE

Cllr Ann Reid, Lib Dem Executive Member responsible for recycling, said: "This has been a massive effort on the part of people all over York and is a great achievement. We have seen recycling rates rise from 12% in 2003 to almost 45% now."

"Rates look set to rise even further as the rollout of kerbside recycling is completed and more people have access to the facilities. We will also be doing even more work to reduce the amount of waste produced in the first place."

Because York now sends so much waste for recycling it has dramatically cut down on the amount going to landfill. This has saved local taxpayers more than £5million in costly landfill taxes since 2005.



Care of the elderly: A top priority



New high quality accommodation for elderly residents in the city

As health care improves and residents live longer the demand for the care services provided by the Council increases. More and more older residents are asking for help. Most want to remain in their own home rather than moving into accommodation for elderly persons. The Lib Dems have responded by investing extra money in local support services. 21st century "Telecare" technology is also being used to ensure people can stay independent and safe but have immediate access to help if they need it.

Liberal Democrats making the difference:

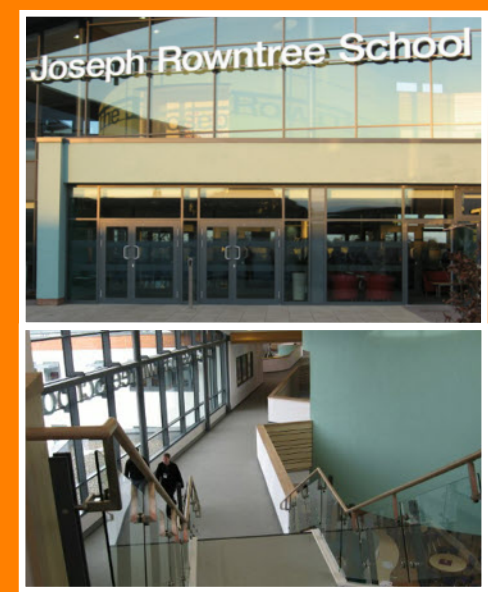
Massive investment in swimming pools

City of York Council and its partners have invested £18m in new swimming facilities for the city since the Liberal Democrats came to power in 2003. Years of decline have been reversed, with a 40% rise in use at Yearsley pool. The new Energise pool has also seen an increase in use compared to the facilities it replaced. York's first county standard pool will soon be built in Heslington. The illustration (below right) is an artist's impression of how the new pool will look.



Record results for York schools

Following a massive rebuilding and refurbishment programme at York school, exam successes have reached a record high. The number of pupils achieving 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE has risen by more than 20% in the last seven years, with 81% of pupils now achieving top grades. Primary schools have had great success with this year's results putting them in the top 25% nationally.

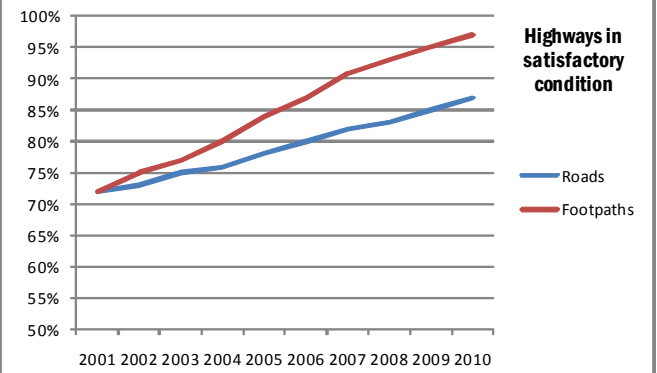


Barbican Centre set to reopen

Local people are celebrating the news that the Barbican Centre is set to reopen this year. The hall will be run in the future by international promoters SMG. Tickets are already on sale for events including popular and classical music, and snooker. More information can be found on the Centre's website at <http://www.yorkbarbican.co.uk/>. The deal saves council saves council tax payers over £700,000 in subsidy per year.



Road conditions improve



The Lib Dem Council has invested £29 million in repairing roads and footpaths since 2003. The budget was given an £1m boost in the last 2 years with a similar investment promised for 2011. This means that the condition is improving despite the winter of 2010 being the worst for 30 years. Some of the money has gone on new equipment to ensure potholes can be repaired quickly and efficiently.