

This autumn City of York Council Exec members will be deciding whether to go ahead with building a multi-storey car park on St George's Field. Earlier in the year we (Johnny Hayes, Kate Ravilious and Jamie Wood) produced an [independent report](#) on car parking in York. We welcome the council's review of car parking needs, which will help to inform this decision, but we still have a few outstanding concerns which we hope the Executive will consider when making their decision.

1. We strongly believe that York's Local Transport Plan (LTP4) and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) should be in place before a strategic decision like this is made. The last two years have been tumultuous, and the future looks very different now to how it did when the Castle Gateway development was first proposed. In particular people's transport needs and habits are changing rapidly, and it is vital that our city is able to adapt its transport infrastructure to meet the challenges and demands of the future. If strategic long-term decisions, such as the construction of a multi-storey car park, are made prior to LTP4 being in place, they will severely constrain the flexibility of LTP4 and will act as fixed points, around which LTP4 and LCWIP must contort. We know that officers have been working on LTP4 for many years now, and therefore must be close to completion. **We urge the Executive to defer strategic transport decisions such as the construction of the St George's Field MSCP until after York's LTP4 has been published.**
2. Our original report identified that data on York's car parks was severely lacking. In particular electronic counters had not been working for some years, and as far as we are aware, manual counts have not been conducted. We believe that there must be a strong evidence base for this decision, and that robust data on York's car parks is essential. We sincerely hope that the forthcoming review will help to fill this data void. It would be useful to know how the £40,000 of funding for the review has been spent, and what efforts have been made to fill the data gap. In particular we think it is essential that the review provides information on the private city centre car parks because any robust business model needs to consider an assessment of the competition. It is also important that the review includes some analysis of York's Park & Ride schemes, to understand how much spare capacity there is, and whether there is scope to expand these schemes. **We ask that the Executive ensures that information on private car parks and Park& Ride are included in the car parking review.**
3. Much emphasis has been put on the support given by the York Business Improvement District (BID) to the St George's Field MSCP. However, there has been little mention of public support. We appreciate that strategic decisions cannot be based on consultation alone, but given that the support of York BID provides a strong part of the justification for this scheme it is important that the rest of the MyCastleGateway consultation responses are also taken into account, and that all the citizens of York are heard. Our analysis of the MyCastleGateway consultation responses suggests that members of the public are largely not in favour of the St George's Field MSCP being built. **We ask that the Executive takes into account all of views gathered during the consultation, and gives appropriate balance to the opinions of the citizens of York.**

We thank you for taking the time to read our update.