

Saying goodbye to council chiefs

TRIBUTES were paid to long-serving council bosses, as they prepare to move on to pastures new.

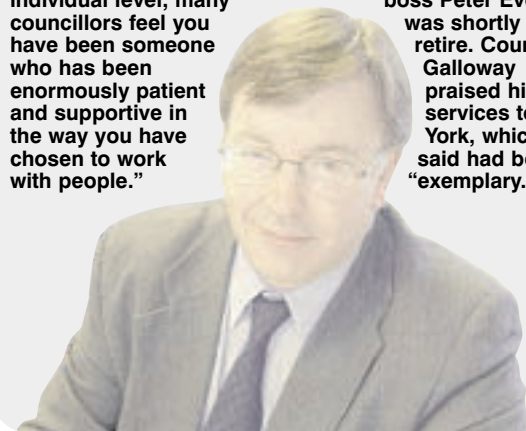
City of York Council chief executive David Atkinson attended his last executive meeting, on Tuesday, before leaving his post tomorrow.

At the end of the meeting, council leader Steve Galloway told Mr Atkinson: "We are all enormously grateful for the contribution you have made. I know that, on an individual level, many councillors feel you have been someone who has been enormously patient and supportive in the way you have chosen to work with people."

Mr Atkinson thanked the executive, and said they had been a delight to work with. He said he hoped that, under the current hung council, a common approach could be found for the future.

Coun Galloway also thanked Patrick Scott, pictured, who is leaving as director of learning, culture and children's services, for his dedication over the years.

The meeting also heard that network management boss Peter Evely was shortly to retire. Coun Galloway praised his services to York, which he said had been "exemplary."



OAP was cheated

by Megi Rychlikova

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A SON persuaded a hard-up woman to cheat his 71-year-old mother out of £340, a court heard.

Jodie Christine Dowson, 26, claimed to be the pensioner when she cashed a cheque in the elderly woman's name at a city centre money shop, said Louise Reeve, prosecuting.

But though she had three pieces of ID to support her claim, including a bank statement, she did not have the authority to use the cheque,

and police later discovered that the pensioner's son, Nigel Elders, was also in the Moneyspinners shop, in Blossom Street, at the same time.

Dowson, of Tang Hall Lane, York, pleaded guilty to fraud and was conditionally discharged for 18 months. She was also ordered to pay £340 compensation to the pensioner and £40 court costs.

She stood alone in the dock at York Magistrates Court.

The court was not told whether the police or prosecution had taken any action against Mr Elders.

Her solicitor, Craig Robertson, said Dowson had gone to the pensioner's home to sort out a bond as she was in the process of moving out of her then address.

When she arrived, Mr Elders greeted her and offered to pay her £10 if she cashed one of his mother's cheques. As she, her partner and two children lived on benefits, money was tight. So she agreed to the scheme.

She then cashed the cheque at Moneyspinners. She got £10 of the money - Mr Elders took the rest.

Mrs Reeve said the shop

assistant handed over £310.80 when the cheque was cashed.

Dowson went to the pensioner's home in north York on May 11, where Mr Elders told her that his mother was on holiday. Apart from the bank statement, she also handed over a letter from police as a form of identification in Moneyspinners.

But she was caught on CCTV and later identified.

After her arrest, she told police about Mr Elders' part in the transaction and police went back to the CCTV film. There they saw that Mr Elders was in the shop with her.

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