

## **Feedback on progress since the June 2009 Business Forum meeting**

### **Planning in the City:**

- Local Development Framework consultation on core strategy preferred options: tailored presentations given to the York Economic Partnership and a joint special meeting of York Professionals and the York Business Forum.
- Significant progress with Yorkshire Forward to undertake an economic master-planning/visioning initiative within the City and create a York Renaissance Team to provide additional capacity to support major developments in the city.
- Major projects group continuing to meet with City Strategy to co-ordinate planning involvement in significant developments.
- Discussions under way with Yorkshire Forward and the landowners of York Central, following the decision to suspend the search for a developer of the comprehensive site.
- Workshop to be held at the Business Forum to provide a more detailed update on major developments in the City.

### **Economy:**

- Continued progress with initiatives undertaken by the Council in response to the current economic situation: particularly, measures to develop skills, encourage shoppers into the city centre, and aid those most in need.
- Most recent meeting of the York Economic Partnership focussed on developing the partnership's response to the Centre for Cities report. Key actions identified have been identified by the partnership. In addition to those covered elsewhere in this update, one specific action is to establish a task and finish group to oversee the development of a coherent enterprise strategy for the city.
- The recommendations of the Green jobs taskforce, established to consider the development of a low carbon economy in York, have been reported to the Executive of the Council and are intended to be the subject of a wider consultation.
- New Chief Executive of Science City York, Professor Nicola Spence, appointed and business plan prepared. More detailed presentation to be given to a future meeting of the Business Forum.
- Visit York AGM held and business plan for the partnership launched.

### **Skills and Workforce development:**

- Skills safari re-run at the Science City exhibition room in July. If your HR manager or team would like a briefing, please contact Julia Massey - [julia.massey@vtplc.com](mailto:julia.massey@vtplc.com).
- Higher York are offering a government subsidised programme of training and consultancy – there is a vast range of courses (accredited and non-accredited, including short ½ day and day workshops). All businesses receive a free initial consultation to establish their priorities and then if they wish to proceed up to 60% subsidies are available. Call 01904 876350, email [contactus@higheryork.org](mailto:contactus@higheryork.org) or look at the website [www.higheryork.org](http://www.higheryork.org)

- Skill support
  1. Recruitment support + subsidies - Graduates Yorkshire + Job Centre Plus
  2. Train to Gain (low level + higher level bespoke training subsidies) - contact Business Link
  3. Redundancy support for employers + employees - contact Job Centre Plus, Future Prospects or VT (Merchant House)
- The latest information available shows that Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 skills in the adult population are above target and still leading within the region.

### **Climate change:**

- The Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre in York have just secured funding to support businesses in York and North Yorkshire with a signposting support package of advice and guidance. The service is called the North Yorkshire Sub Regional Green Business Club. The Sustainable WoW web pages will be updated to reflect this support (and with additional organisations in the region that can further help businesses to 'go green'). This work will be done by 19th October.
- Case studies are to be available on the Sustainable WoW pages. A template will be circulated to the Business Forum to see if members have examples that they are already doing that are worth promoting across the whole WoW.

### **Marketing the City:**

- Work is underway to seek consultancy support to move onto Stage 2 of this project which will work with key stakeholders in the City to determine the nature of the initiative regarding brand identity and image creation, prior to moving onto implementation.

**Contact** for further information on any of the above:  
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