



YORK@LARGE

the city's cultural partnership

Minutes

Date: 10 June 2015

Time: 3:45 Mansion House, then Guildhall

Venue: Room 1 Guildhall

Present: Chris Bailey, Charlie Croft, Stuart Goulden, Lisa Power, Portia Simpson, Cllr Nigel Ayre, Richard Pollitt (Item 2) David Warburton (item 2)

Apologies: Janet Barnes, Claire Antrobus, Gavin Cowley, Joan Concannon, Vicky Biles, Steve Brown; Steve Purcell

Item	Discussion	Action	
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Chris Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Richard Pollitt and the Lord Mayor for allowing people to be shown around the Mansion House.</p>		
2	<p>Guildhall Quarter and Mansion House/HLF development</p> <p>Richard Pollitt welcomed members to the Mansion House and gave a tour round the building to explain about the "Opening Doors" Heritage Lottery Fund Restoration Project.</p> <p>In September 2015 the Mansion House will close for the removal of contents. The construction work will begin in October and the Mansion House will open again October half term 2016.</p> <p>The project aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase and enhance public access and community involvement• Develop a greater educational provision for adult and children groups• Improve interpretation of the history• Improve conservation and maintenance of the house and its collections• Reduce the carbon footprint• Achieve long term financial sustainability• Establish the Mansion House in the cultural evolution of the city. <p>The entire project will cost approximately £1.7million. The HLF grant is £1.2 million and CYC funding and other grant funding/sponsorship/fundraising will meet the additional amounts required.</p>		

The meeting then continued in the Guildhall for a presentation by David Warburton on the Guildhall project.

The Guildhall was originally considered as part of the new HQ project but as the project progressed it became clear that officers and members wanted to be entirely at West Offices. Cabinet approved a development fund for a project manager who undertook feasibility work to establish the potential for a Digital Media Arts Centre and investigated sources of funding. Following an RIBA competition the winning entry highlighted the potential for public space on the riverside.

(DW's slides from presentation circulated)

UNESCO designation of York as the UK's first City of Media Arts was achieved in December 2014 and a report went to Cabinet seeking agreement to undertake detailed project development work. This was initially approved in December 2014 before being referred for scrutiny in January 2015 regarding concerns about the business case and sector benefits. The project team has since worked on these aspects including securing the offer of a loan from the Local Growth Fund of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership and making a revised HLF bid to secure public access to a heritage resource for the City on the theme of "Telling the York Story" including the story of commerce, trade and the Guilds.

The new Council elected in May has announced a review of the project which is to go to Executive in July 2015 to confirm the project's status. York@Large and Make It York are both seen as having a key role in representing the sector's views on the project.

The meeting welcomed the detailed presentation and agreed the project was potentially of great economic and social value to the sector and to the city. It was noted that office space can often be found for new enterprises at 'incubator' level, eg the Phoenix Centre at York St John University, but after that there is little to rent to enable them to progress the next stage. It had been reported that the Phoenix Centre is in any case contracting or closing even as both Universities are experiencing growth in student numbers studying creative and cultural subjects. It was noted that Guildhall was a very useful space as a temporary headquarters for festivals and events, eg Illuminating York, and had been highly successful as a venue for events eg No Boundaries and the recent URBACT conference.

Referring to the office space in the development David Warburton said over half could be flexible/co-working or perhaps dedicated desks. Companies could buy in the ability to work in the building or use 'touch-down' space. The building would have cutting edge broadband within the range of access which would permit eg high speed video streaming and post-production.

Cllr Ayre suggested that it would be important to demonstrate in

	<p>the report that any proposed scheme was the best of all possible schemes rather than presenting it as the only scheme. It could be used by a number of different sectors. It will be important to have a business case that clearly stacks up.</p>		
3	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.</p>		
4	<p>Draft Terms of Reference</p> <p>It was noted that useful comments on the draft Terms had been received from Steve Purcell in the light of which some amendments would be made. Chris and Charlie will update the Terms of Reference and a revised document will be circulated for information prior to publication on the website</p>	CC, CB	
5.	<p>New Y@L members and terms of membership</p> <p>The public advertisement for new members had attracted 13 responses and Chris has subsequently met all but one to talk about the work of York@Large. In line with the priorities agreed previously Lisa Power and Ben Porter have joined. In the light of their roles in the sector, Portia Simpson and Fiona Williams have also agreed to join York@Large. Chris confirmed that he would continue to explore opportunities to invite others with appropriate expertise to join.</p> <p>As the Executive Member of the Council with responsibility for leisure, culture and tourism, Cllr Ayre is an ex officio member.</p>	CB	
6.	<p>Update on political arrangements</p> <p>Charlie Croft advised it is a little early to be clear on all the changes, but some changes were -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive instead of Cabinet • Scrutiny now changed to Policy & Scrutiny committees • Papers go to Scrutiny and Policy for debate prior to decision by the Executive member. • A better understanding of the new arrangements will be possible after the meeting of the Executive on 30 July. 		
7.	<p>Progress reports on current projects:</p> <p>Vespertine (previously Red Letter Nights)</p> <p>Chris reported that the first group of Vespertine events had been publicised and that the first of these, at St. Martin's church and</p>		

	<p>the City Screen Basement had been a good start. Lucy and Yvonne were considering the target audiences, both visitors, office workers and residents. It was noted that a presentation from Lucy and Yvonne was planned for the September meeting.</p> <p>York CCP Locality Project This project, which has been awarded to only five locations in England, is about demonstrating through practice the health and wellbeing outcomes of cultural activity. The project consultant, Linden Rowley was interviewing commissioners in the health and adult social care sectors and this will be followed up by meeting of the consortium about how projects are built into contracts from next year.</p> <p>York Culture Awards Steve Brown is planning that Make It York host a culture awards that will raise awareness of and celebrate success across the sector. The first Culture awards should take place in 2016.</p>	CC	
8.	<p>Illuminating York 2015 update</p> <p>Portia Simpson updated the meeting on Illuminating York 2015. This was the 10th year of Illuminating York and the project has now been adopted by Make it York. The budget normally consists of Arts Council grant, ticket income and other minor support and sponsorship funding. A smaller base budget for the piece and little bits from other things.</p> <p>The Steering Group is chaired by Liz Page from English Heritage and Liz and Portia are currently looking at what skills are needed on that group. The potential new members have skills in fund raising, sponsorship and business development. The steering group will meet at the end of July, when the Arts Council decision will be announced.</p> <p>Portia described the recent Light up the North project instigated by the Arts Council. They invited York to set up this group of light-based outdoor art projects across the North region and have been supportive of its work. Two meetings have been held so far and ACE has indicated its interest in providing strategic support.</p> <p>For the first time this year Illuminating York will be curated externally. Hazel Colquhoun and Andrew Knight were appointed as curators in February and are currently developing the programme. The programme will acknowledge that 2015 is UNESCO Year of Light. There will be a charge for to attend the event but the ticket prices will be kept low. The charity adopted this year is Solaraid. The dates will be 28 – 31 October inclusive; the Wednesday to Saturday of Half Term.</p> <p>Members thanked Portia for her report.</p>		
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>It was noted that the York Design Awards, which are promoted</p>		

	by York Civic Trust, will take place on 24 th June. Chris Bailey commented that the 2015 Festival of Ideas programme included a wide range of events relating to the sector.		
	Next meetings: 16 September, 9 December		