

ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Friday 4th March 2011
2:00pm – 4:30pm, Guildhall

Present:

Philip Crowe (PC)	York Environment Forum
Cllr Stephen Galloway (SG)	CYC
Cllr Ann Reid (AR)	CYC
Mike Slater (MS)	CYC (Chair)
Kate Lock (KL)	York Environment Forum
Gary Haq (GH)	SEI
Neil Redfren (NR)	English Heritage
John Carr (JC)	Quality Bus Partnership

Observers:

Barry Otley (BO)	Environment Forum
Denise Simms (DS)	CYC
Jacqui Warren	CYC

Apologies:

Mike Barningham (MB)	Natural England
Jenny Jenson (JJ)	Sustainability 4 Yorkshire
David Warburton	CYC

1. Welcome and apologies / Minutes and matters arising

- MS welcomed those attending the meeting.
- Apologies – as above.
- MS advised the Board that MB had advised that due to changes within Natural England he would be leaving at the end of May. He is hoping that another delegate to the Board will be appointed.
- All approved the previous minutes from the 17th November 2010. All outstanding matters were addressed or will be picked up as agenda items in this meeting.

2. Update from the WOW Partnership

- DS advised that at the last meeting on 16 February 2011 the role of the LSP was discussed in light of the end of LAA, CAA, and the Audit Commission. Having agreed that the LSP will remain, there is a need to ensure it is fit for purpose and to decide priorities. KL and PC expressed concern that the environment be kept as a key component. MS stated he had met with Sir Ron Cooke and stressed that any revised structure must have the environment as a key component. Full details of the meeting are available from the WoW website.

3. Subgroups Update

- All partners were invited to update the EPB on any recent developments.
- GH advised that he had just been notified that the Green Neighbourhood Challenge had made the final of 4 short-listed projects for the Climate Awards in the Best Local Initiative category. MS said he was delighted and to reach the final 4 was an achievement in itself. Announcements will be made on 21st March 2011.
- KL advised the Environment Forum had recently expanded and now contained members with specific expertise. There was regular email contact between members outside of meetings. The forum was in the process of producing its own vision for the city for the next 10yrs. They hope to publish this at the start of Climate Week on 21 March. The Forum are also involve in Tree-mendous, the local sustainable transport fund and movement and accessibility conference. The forum has ambitions to be a delivery partner for the SCS and ask that JW / MS attend a meeting to discuss how to achieve.
- NR advised that the CHCCA and views analysis is going well and will sit within the LDF and CCAAP. MS said that Northumbria University had been appointed to do 3D modelling of the City.
- JC is working on the accessibility strategy. There is a need to ensure expansion of footstreets, which also allows for access by bus passengers.

4. Heritage Strategy Update – John Oxley City Archaeologist. City of York Council.

- JO advised that the Heritage Strategy had not progressed due to pressure of the World Heritage Site bid and the Heritage Topic Paper (HTP) and other strategic areas of work. The timetable will be revised in light of the HTP but will be completed and adopted later in 2011. JO welcomed the views of the Board.
- JO advised the consultation would be 6-8 weeks.
- Gil Cooper will take a paper to York@Large.
- NR welcomed the HTP, but that it is critical that it relates to the Heritage Strategy.
- KL asked into the process for the World Heritage bid. JO outlined the procedure and said the announcement should be made by DCMS by end of March 2011. See associated papers for a full update.

Item 7 was brought forward and DG was invited to present.

7. Council York New City Beautiful towards an Economic Vision – Derek Gauld, Forward Planning City of York Council

- DG advised that there has been numerous presentation on this work and that the challenge is to now identify deliverable projects from the Vision. Funding is key as is working with Partnerships outside CYC. There are a number of funding opportunities including S106, grant funding and match

funding. Priorities will be agreed with the Renaissance team to deliver greatest economic impact and with design standards on key sites. A number of plans are already in progress including, Lord Mayors Walk study allied to the Minster Quarter and the Minster's Plaza scheme; pedestrianisation of Library Square; redevelopment of the public toilets in Parliament Street as well as the future of the Castle /Piccadilly site. A Town Team was suggested as a delivery tool and also possibly a champion or several champions. JC advised that the railway industry needs to be engaged and attention paid to access to and from the station. SG advised LTP3 looks at routes into the city and there is a need to engage with new railway franchisee. PC urged EPB not to ignore the hinterland and the impact on the economic viability of new technologies.

- The Public Realm strategy is being refreshed and also to include de-cluttering. The CHCCA has identified 20 character areas and the 1st stage report is due end of April. It is intended to plant 50,000 trees over the next 2-3 planting seasons. There was some discussion around capturing the information of all the trees planted around the city to ensure that the correct information is compiled. GH asked if productive trees would be included. KL said Environment Forum was happy to work with DG. Would like EF vision on next agenda.
- A Regeneration Academy will be set up to train and develop CYC employees in place making initiatives.

5. Natural Environment Subgroup update. – Bob Missin Ecologist City of York Council

- BM ran through a presentation on the creation and methodology of the Biodiversity Audit, which has taken 3 yrs to complete. York has many rare and a few unique species of flora and fauna. There are now 9 SSSI's (3 of international importance), 87 SINCS, 12 sites that need further surveying, 131 sites of local interest and 3 LNR's, which cover 5% of the authorities total area. (see presentation for more details)

6. Local Transport Plan 3 update - Tony Clarke Acting Head of Transport City of York Council

- TC advised that this document will go to Executive on 15 March. York benefits from a flat compact city but is also constrained by a rural hinterland where there is a disperse population that rely on cars, the rivers crossings also have capacity during peak times.
- The LTP3 outlines 13 challenges and 5 key themes. However funding is an issue with the capital programme having a 70% reduction in 2011/12.
- The report will go to full council 7th April. In answer to a question from PC,
- TC explained that the Low Emissions Strategy (LES) is a separate report and the LTP3 takes on board issues from the LES.
- JW advised that carbon modelling carried for the CCFAP does not include the impact of the LTP3 however the transport results of this modelling work have been discussed in detail with transport planners.

8. Climate Change update - Carbon modelling and renewable energy studies

- JW ran through a presentation on the need for carbon modelling and how it has been done for the city of York. CYC have 3 targets i) City of Mayors Covenant - 20% reduction by 2020, Friends of the Earth - 40% reduction by 2020 and CCFAP – 80% reduction by 2050. The modelling shows, and can give variations of, technologies that will need to be implemented in order to achieve these city-wide targets. Such major projects required could include CHP, wind generation and city-wide domestic and non domestic retro fit programmes for energy efficiency and microgeneration.
- All targets are achievable but all identified measures require detailed research and feasibility. Hard decisions will need to be taken over expenditure, viability, feasibility and all within planning and other city-wide constraints to deliver the carbon reduction targets.
- The printing of the CCFAP has been delayed in order to incorporate priorities.
- MS said there was a possibility of CYC becoming a generating company.
- JW will send out the detailed modelling to all interested. See presentation for more details.

Next meeting

- All agreed to meet at the end of June/July 2011 after the election. JW to confirm dates and location

Action JW