
**WITHOUT WALLS LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:
YORK ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

Meeting: Wednesday 5th March 2014, 4pm -6pm

At: West Offices, City of York Council

Attending:

- Stirling Kimkeran (Chair), Omnicom
- Tim Hedley-Jones, East Coast Mainline
- Keven Parker, Shepherd Group
- Cllr James Alexander, CYC
- Peter Clinker, Nestle
- Nicola Spence, SYC
- Gary Jones, CVS
- Alison Birkinshaw, York College
- Prof. Koen Lamberts, VC University of York

In attendance

Charles Storr, CYC
Andrew Sharp, CYC
Nathan Vasey, CYC

Apologies:

- Andrew Follington, HSBC
- Phil Verster, Network Rail
- Professor David Fleming, York St. John University
- Dr. Jane Grenville, University of York
- Kersten England, CYC
- Angela Darling, Aviva
- Jane Lady Gibson, Visit York
- David Cox, FSB

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE:

1. Welcome, apologies, and declarations of interests and other business arising

Stirling Kimkeran (SK) welcomed the group and asked for declarations of interest/other business arising relating to agenda.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2013

Minutes circulated with agenda

SK asked the group to confirm the minutes an accurate record of the last meeting and whether there were any matters arising or declarations of interest. None were raised.

4. Performance report

Dashboard to be circulated with agenda

Charles Storr (CS) introduced the performance dashboard, and talked through the performance and operation the key areas to take note of were:

- City Centre vacant shops grew by 5.95% however in reality this is only one more vacant shop
- Business deaths have risen, one to watch.
- The number of commercial property enquiries grew significantly from the same period (July - Sept) the year before
- Patents – we've gone from ranking 56 to 32 – a jump of 24 spaces (but still more work needs to be done)

CS asked the group for feedback on the dashboard:

- SK questioned the low ranking York has for broadband coverage, and suggested delays in rolling it out were to blame. James Alexander (JA) commented that the Centre for Cities data can be unreliable in certain areas, suggesting there is better data than can be used. Nicola Spence (NS) commented that the Super Connected Cities initiative to help with broadband connection, is being formally announced next week and the benefits should be seen from that.

<p>(1) ACTION: Digital York team to be consulted over the most accurate figures for broadband coverage in York</p>

- JA and Kevin Parker (KP) both questioned why lone parent figures are shown in the dashboard and the value of this data
- JA suggested that due to high employment rates already in York, the figures show small amounts of change compared to other cities (who started in a worse position).
- JA raised worries over the varying economic forecasting data used by the LEPs which is often informed by the Centre for Cities data and suggested York should send reports direct to Ministers on the

economy, measuring against what we set out to achieve

- Alison Birkinshaw (AB) welcomed this idea, adding that the York Means Business (YMB) website should feature more information on how York is performing and SK commented that key indicators that feature on the YMB website should be decided on at the next meeting.

(2) ACTION: Key economic indicators that feature on the York Means Business website need to be decided on.

JA explained recent announcement by government to offer business rate relief if half of the relief is matched by the local authority. JA suggested using this to encourage businesses to take on apprentices in exchange for rate relief. AB commented that a trainee scheme would be best suited when targeting those who have been out of work for a year or more.

(3) ACTION: CS to explore the business rates reduction proposal and how it could work financially

(4) ACTION: Business rates reduction proposal to be explored in the BEG and FSB asked to for comment

STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS:

5. New ways of working

Purpose: *To consider developments relating to new structures and governance for economic development and transport, and for YEP to support/input into these developments* [Links to the relevant Cabinet reports attached](#)

West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA)

JA updated the board on the WYCA. Explaining that original legislation was written for Manchester, and difficult to implement elsewhere. West Yorkshire will become a combined authority in April, but at present York cannot formally join because its boundary is not contiguous and parliament was considering consulting on a Legislative Reform Order. In the meantime The WYCA meetings are currently taking place in shadow form and JA to be the vice chair of the Inward Investment board. The current timeframe for setting up the WYCA is still unknown.

New agency for attracting visitors and inward investment (NewCo)

Lady Jane Gibson (LJG) is the transitional chair of the new agency. Report to cabinet in April will outline the agencies structure, including resources

that may be moved from CYC. KP expressed concern that the YEP board needs to have more input especially around the structure and offered his support and help. The group also wanted to ensure there was more commercial input and wanted information on the communication strategy for the Newco launch

(5) **ACTION:** KP to meet with LJG to discuss NewCo

Delivering Development Investment

JA updated the board on the current joint venture proposals. Cabinet have approved an initial start. KP said he knew someone who in corporate finance that would be able to assist with the work. AB questioned the ethical implications of money raised through a joint-venture, however reassurances were given that correct checks are in place. Both KP and Peter Clinker (PC) offered their help with the corporate finance aspects.

6. Task Group Report

Purpose: *To receive reports and recommendations from the YEP task groups. Minutes where available and summary circulated with agenda.*

6a. Investment Task Group

Investment task group has commissioned work to move forward the inward investment strategy, identifying markets and companies in the YEPs priority proactive sectors. It was identified that the work by this group will be used by the new agency to shape their approach to inward investment.

6b. Business Engagement Group

A spreadsheet has been created detailing the business support offered by members of the group. Once refined, this can be used to inform on business support in York.

Updated the YEP on the 'Good Growth' presentation that was given at the last meeting, it was suggested that the same presentation be given to the YEP.

York Business Week was looked at, with decisions leaning towards producing a year long calendar of business events for York, with the conference being more of a prominent, focused event.

(6) **ACTION:** CS to circulate the BEG paper on York Business Week

The YEP board were updated on the change of chair situation within the BEG and asked if anyone would want to chair the BEG.

RESOLUTION: The BEG should appoint a chair from its current members, and that person to be invited to join the YEP Board

(7) ACTION: Once appointed, BEG chair to be invited to join the YEP

6c. Productivity Group

The Productivity Group met for the first time in February. Defined productivity and explored new ideas, such as a York Customer Service Accreditation award.

RESOLUTION: The group should continue to explore sectoral details on productivity levels to determine where the YEP Board needs to target action and intervention.

6d. Space and Infrastructure Group

The Space and Infrastructure Group is waiting on how NewCo develops before moving forward. No next meeting date set for the group. Tim Headly-Jones (THJ) will report to the YEP on this groups work going forward.

6e. City Centre Group

The City Team York have appointed a new chair, Adam Sinclair. An executive committee was formed to meet more regularly and drive the work of the City team, this is formed of 7 members and 2 CYC officers. Discussions have focused on transport issues, such as bus timetables, parking and the Lendal Bridge Trail.

RESOLUTION: The City Team to engage regularly with the YEP Board and the Chair, Adam Sinclair, be invited to join the YEP board

(8)ACTION: Adam Sinclair to be invited to join the YEP board

7. Any Other Business

The board was made aware that NS was standing down from Science City York (SCY) and joining DEFRA. Fay Treloar to be taking NS's position at SCY and to be invited to join the YEP board.

(9) ACTION: Fay Treloar to be invited to join the YEP board.

A discussion was held over NS returning on the YEP board representing DEFRA, and this was welcomed, however it was decided that SK would come back to the YEP on this matter.

(10) ACTION: SK to return to the YEP on NS's position on the board.

SK closed the meeting

Date and time of the next YEP Board meeting: Thursday 19th June,
16:00 to 18:00, venue tbc

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS, 5 March 2014

1. **ACTION:** The Digital York team to be consulted over the most accurate figures on broadband coverage for York
2. **ACTION:** Key economic indicators to feature on the York Means Business website need to be decided on
3. **ACTION:** CS to explore the business rates reduction proposal and how it could work financially
4. **ACTION:** Business rates reduction proposal to be explored in the BEG and FSB asked to comment
5. **ACTION:** KP to meet with LJG to discuss NewCo
6. **ACTION:** CS to circulate the BEG paper on York Business Week
7. **ACTION:** Once appointed, BEG chair to be invited to join the YEP
8. **ACTION:** Adam Sinclair to be invited to join the YEP board
9. **ACTION:** Fay Treloar to be invited to join the YEP board
10. **ACTION:** SK to return to the YEP on NS's position on the board
11. **ACTION:** KS to circulate LEP SEPs when available
12. **13. ACTION:** ITG to report the plan and target companies to the March Board
13. **14. ACTION:** CS to circulate feedback from the YBW Steering Group at the end of January, for the Board's viewed on a way forward for YBW.
14. **15. ACTION:** Board to feedback via email on possible office stock they are aware needs refurbishing.