

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

Meeting: 6th February 2013, 4pm to 6pm

At: Dining Room, Mansion House, St. Helen's Square, York

Attending

Peter Kay (Chair)
Stirling Kimkeran (New Chair)
Keven Parker, Shepherd Group
Debbie Megone, York CVS
Professor David Fleming, Higher York
Professor Brian Cantor, University of York
Emma Smales, Federation for Small Business (deputy for David Cox)
Keith Herdman, HSBC (deputy for Andrew Follington)
Julia Massey, Learning City York (deputy for Jill Hodges)
Cllr James Alexander, CYC
Cllr Ian Gillies, CYC
Cllr Carol Runciman, CYC
Kersten England, CYC

Also in attendance

Cllr Tracey Simpson- Laing, CYC
Cllr Dave Merrett, CYC
Darren Richardson, CYC
Katie Stewart, CYC
Jonathan Walker, CYC
Stuart Golden, One and Other
Mark Alty, CYC
Gwen Swinburn
Nick Eggleton

Agenda item and notes:

**Action
owner**

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE:

1 Welcome and apologies

PK welcomed the Board members and guests and noted apologies received:

- Andrew Follington, HSBC – Keith Herdman attending
- David Cox, FSB – Emma Smales attending

- Jill Hodges, Learning City – Julia Massey attending
- Nicola Spence, SCY
- Lady Jane Gibson, Visit York
- Dave Bruce, Nestle, (has now left the York office – identifying replacement)
- Karen Boswell, East Coast
- Phil Verster, Network Rail
- Richard Flanagan, YNY Chamber

PK also welcomed new Board members:

- **Keven Parker** – Group Finance Director of Shepherd Group
- **Professor David Fleming** – Vice Chancellor, York St. John University and representing Higher York
- **Phil Verster** – Route Managing Director, Network Rail – not able to be at this meeting
- **Karen Boswell** – MD for East Coast –not able to be at this meeting

PK welcomed Darren Richardson to the Board and to the city as the new Director of City and Environmental Services at CYC

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2012, and matters arising (including governance update)

PK indicated that this item has moved forward from 3 to 2 on the original agenda given he had chaired the September meeting and would be sensible for him to chair this item.

PK asked the group to comment on the accuracy of the minutes, asking for matters arising; one matter arising raised by PK was the Governance Update circulated as part of the papers following discussion at last meeting.

PK reminded the group that a Memorandum of Understanding was discussed at last meeting but time requested for further consideration; he asked whether there were comments. The group discussed:

- BC suggested that stronger language was needed on the commitment of the Council to taking action as to what is agreed by the Board – under point 4.8 of the report.
- BC also suggested under point 2.2 e that Education and Higher Education should help to facilitate the future skills needs for the city. JM will assist in wording an amendment,

- JA indicated that whilst CYC can make every effort to work with the YEP board to ensure its priorities are reflected in CYC decisions and investment, there is the need for democratic due process in CYC decisionmaking
- KE suggested a solution may be to indicate under 4.8 to indicate that CYC will “make best endeavours to deliver” against priorities set by the YEP Board. She also reminded the group that it is a partnership and that the MoU should not just be about what CYC is doing but what all partners are doing to deliver the priorities of the YEP.
- BC agreed, but also responded that most of what will be delivered is likely to be CYC delivered by nature of the agenda.
- IG suggested that YEP decisions should be published in relevant CYC reports.
- ES indicated that perhaps it should be noted that in the terms of reference where the Board’s role includes consulting with the wider business community, there should be an onus on all partners to get the message out through their networks on behalf of the YEP –ToR 2.3
- SK proposed that agreement of the MoU be deferred to the next Board meeting to allow, particularly the new members of the Board, to take time in reviewing the revised MoU. PK and the group agreed.

Action: MoU/ToRs to be brought back to March meeting for final review and sign-off.

KS

- PK also reminded the Board that the paper presents the revised Board membership; he suggested that although the Board membership may be large, it is worth allowing the new membership to move ahead as is to identify whether a further review of the number on the Board is required in future. The group agreed to keep the membership as is until/unless a further review is deemed necessary.
- PK also noted that the next business forum would be held in March which will enable consultation on refreshed format, new chair and forum members to be nominated to the YEP Board

3 Announcement of new Chair of YEP and introduction to new Board members

PK indicated that a selection process had been undertaken for the identification of a new Chair and that the selection panel had made a selection of Stirling Kimkeran. PK provided a brief note of Stirling's background, welcoming him to the post.

PK gave a final statement as Chair, indicating that he had held the post for four years, and that it had been a privilege. He suggested that York was a strong economy at a difficult economic climate, and that the Partnership has evolved in that process to a position of leadership and vision, and the memorandum of understanding under consideration is a testament to this progress. He noted his thanks to the business leaders, partners, Council members and officers, and his final note was of the professional connections and respect, but also the friendship developed with the Board.

IG proposed a vote of thanks from the Board, agreed by the group, for his four years in post and his leadership, without which the Board would not be what it is today. The group gave a round of applause.

SK took over chairing the meeting at this point.

SK thanked Peter for his encouragement to join the Board in the first place and indicated his keen desire to ensure he is able to continue the leadership that PK had provided to date.

Action: SK to arrange meetings with new Board members before next meeting to get their views on the Board going forward. SK

MAJOR STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS:

4 Looking ahead to 2013/14: the ambition and opportunities for York and YEP Board

SK asked whether the Board had had an opportunity to read and reflect on the paper and whether there were any initial questions; none received.

KS then presented update on the economic performance of the city,

the policy context and opportunities and challenged the board on its role in the year ahead.

SK to encourage the Board to input ideas/thoughts/reactions to the proposals. The group discussed:

- BC indicated that the five suggested priorities were useful for focusing the Board's work and agreed broadly with these headlines, but suggested additions:
 - Under either giving city the space to grow or unlocking growth potential of small business, need to include business parks and other sites beyond those usually included, like York Central; and
 - Under either unlocking growth potential of small business or high value business investment, need to include support for entrepreneurship development
- JA responded on a number of the items:
 - On access to finance question, asked the board whether there is an interest/appetite for CYC being involved in securing funding to lend to small business
 - Whether EDU could look into the decrease in Education employees from the DJD work
- On access to finance, IG suggested that CYC needed to look further at Government programmes available to lend to small business

- DF suggested the group needs to consider further the productivity question – as this appears to be a real challenge that the Board should be aiming to tackle; he asked whether the link was to service jobs with regard to tourism
- The group considered actions to raise the innovation and value of tourism and leisure industries; JA suggested potential for international internships; CR reminded the group that the colleges in the region have a role to play; DF suggested that this could be a potential addition to this area for the YEP board to explore
- IG suggested that there was a lack of communication with CYC and city of York reps more generally on LEP activity; KE indicated that there are up to date websites, but KS suggested that her team would work to provide regular updates to the Board to ensure better communication and opportunity for the Board to input to this activity via York reps
- JA and KE encouraged the Board members to consider the

opportunity now available for private sector members to put themselves forward for places on the LCR LEP Board and Panels – further information to be sent by KS

Action: KS to circulate information on LCR LEP Board and Panel recruitment, and Board members to consider whether they might put themselves forward for a position KS
All

Action: CYC EDU to prepare regular updates to the YEP Board on LEP progress/activity KS

BC agreed with the suggestion the Board needs to explore RGF and other funding programmes – including ERDF, getting SCY involved

Action: CYC EDU to work with SCY (in short term) and access to finance task group (once established) on developing proposals for Board for accessing funding KS/NS
/Task
Group

SK to summed up with discussion and recommendations agreed :

- ✓ That these proposals are taken forward via the proposed sector ambassador and task groups model...
- ✓ Suggest that notes from task groups are formally reported back to the Board on a regular basis (at meetings)...volunteers for task groups sought
- ✓ Suggest that board take on york means business branding as a board, and encourage members to consider using as ambassadors for the city for company literature where appropriate

Action: Board to consider priority areas and actions they would like to see carried forward by the Board to achieve in 2013/14 Board

Action: KS to prepare draft forward plan based on ideas coming from members and discussed on the day/after the meeting for consideration by next Board KS

5 Local Plan/Priority Sites Update

DR presented his item, bringing the Board up to date with the Local Plan call for sites, with responses in and being reviewed for their

potential to solve exactly the issue raised in the previous discussion under Item 4 – the need to give the city the space to grow.

He outlined the approach to bringing forward the local plan and complex development site needs for the city

DR mentioned the importance of construction jobs as well as the permanent jobs created.

The Board agreed the city and future skills strategy needed to be ready to address the potential need for construction skills from the local economy

SK wished to emphasise local supply chains needed to be included at all stages of progress.

ES also suggested that procurement policy should focus more on localism.

JA wished to express the need for cross party agreement that land was needed for future growth in the city.

KS updated on plans to then test the market with the city's representation at the international property fair in Cannes – MIPIM.

SK suggested that the Board agreed the importance of the city going to MIPIM.

Action KS to circulate request for nominees to represent the Board at MIPIM in March KS

Action DR to circulate the Local Plan timeline for progress and consultation. DR

6 CYC Budget Consultation

JA presented headlines relevant to the business community

SK asked for questions/thoughts from the Board:

- ES asked about business rates retention and relief and that KE would clarify any issues raised

7 Any other business

SK asked for for any other business.

KE provided an update) and indicated further information would be sent for businesses to get involved. The Peer review would take place in June with senior officials of Nottingham and Sunderland City Councils leading the review.

SK also indicated that at the next meeting, he would like the Board to consider the election of a Vice Chair.

Action: KS circulates the Santander and MJ reports to the YEP members. KS

Action: Board members to consider whether they would be interested in putting themselves forward for the position of Vice Chair. All

- Future meeting dates (4 to 6pm) (please note corrected dates from agenda):
 - 20th March
 - 9th May
 - 11th July
 - 19th September
 - 14th Nov

8 Close