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

**Meeting: Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013, 4 to 6pm**

**At: Board Room, Aviva, Wellington Row**

**Attending:**

Stirling Kimkeran (Chair), Omnicom  
Tim Hedley-Jones, East Coast Mainline  
Keven Parker, Shepherd Group  
Debbie Megone, CVS  
Peter Clinker, Nestle  
Angela Darlington, Aviva  
Richard Flanagan, YNY Chamber of Commerce  
Andrew Follington, HSBC  
Emma Smailes (deputy), Federation for Small Business  
Professor David Fleming, York St. John University  
Cllr James Alexander  
Cllr Ian Gillies, CYC  
Cllr Carol Runciman, CYC  
Kersten England, CYC  
Jill Hodges, Learning City Partnership

*In attendance*

Cllr Dave Merrett, CYC  
Darren Richardson, CYC  
Richard Wood, CYC  
Katie Stewart, CYC  
Andrew Sharp, CYC  
Charles Storr, CYC  
Jonathan Walker, CYC  
Stuart Golden, One and Other  
Julie Hayes, York Press  
Gwen Swinburn  
Nick Eggleton

**Apologies:**

- Lady Jane Gibson (Visit York)
- Phil Verster (Network Rail)
- David Cox (FSB) – Emma Smailes deputising
- Brian Cantor (UY)
- Nicola Spence (SCY)

**ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE:**

## 1 Welcome and apologies

**SK** thanked Angela Darlington for hosting the Board and extend thanks to her PA (Lisa Dalby) for arranging the logistics on our behalf – a highly professional team. NB Aviva are supplying the room and refreshments at no cost.

## 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and minutes of task and finish groups

**KE** suggested action list drawn out from minutes for next and future meetings

**KS** to update minutes from last meeting to ensure accurate reflection of the Board's sign off of MoU

- *City Team York – 26<sup>th</sup> April*

Need to address the use of time in CTY

Conversation needed with FSB on small business on new technologies

**ES** asked to clarify the night time levy and concerns of the Lendal Bridge closure, A Boards and night time Levy on Public houses in the minutes in the CTY minutes

- *Investment Task Group – 29<sup>th</sup> April*

**KS** presented slides from the investment task group

**RF** and **AD** reported back views from group:

- There is work that can be done to develop the investment proposition for the city but ultimately more commercial space/employment land is needed in the city for business
- Local plan doesn't go far enough in addressing this
- Possible options for working to facilitate refurbishment of long-term vacant space

Discussion by the group followed:

- **DF** commented on the lack of sufficient growth on space
- **IG** suggested we need to understand what investors want, and what will influence them to invest in the city
- **KP** need to be more holistic in our approach...work out who and how we keep them...full strategy

- **CR** need to be clear what we can influence
- **AD** mentioned connectivity good but cost is a barrier to London

### 3 Update on current economic context

**KS** presented update on context

**JA** explained the position on YNYER LEP, including rationale for YNYER LEP decision based in large part on need for clarity on funding and need to avoid having to bid and negotiate

Discussion/comments from the group followed:

- **SK** need to ensure that businesses needing to have say and clarify the involvement of CYC and York business in YNYER LEP
- **ES** said it is better explained in the meeting in the communications strategy and that this clearer message was needed to enable that business relationship
- **ES** claimed there is not a good enough relationship with business from LCR LEP and It is **JA**'s role to get those businesses involved

**Action.** Invite Roger Marsh to first possible opportunity to this group to start to build relationship between YEP and LEP Board

**Action.** CYC to provide a more positive statement from James and Barry Dodd

**Action.** BEG to meet and agree alignment with YEP objectives and to discuss the future of the Business Forum

### **MAJOR STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS:**

#### 4 Governance update – proposals for membership

**SK** asked **KS** to confirm the update to the ToRs following alignment with WoW Board review.

The group agreed the revised terms of reference and particularly the amendments with regard to public participation.

**SK** presented feedback from YEP Board private sector, including particularly (a) the need for the Board to be clear about its added value and the value the members are bringing to the table and (b) the need to streamline the Board membership.

**SK** indicated that members particularly would like to rotate meetings

around private sector offices to the extent possible – hence holding at Aviva Board Room. Would welcome further interest in holding these at other locations.

**SK** also indicated that members would also want to have an opportunity to further shape priorities in a facilitated session where full and frank conversation can be had about where the priorities should be. As such, propose the holding of a workshop with the Board before the next formal meeting - sometime at end June.

**SK** presented the recommendations for streamlining the Board membership outlined in the report for this item:

- (1) The business networks are confirmed as members of a newly strengthened **Business Engagement Group** – which will take on a new role as a task and finish group of the YEP Board (previously has operated as a separate ad hoc group). This means that one member of the BEG is then elected chair of that group and sits on the Board to represent these networks

The BEG would then be able to take ownership of agendas like the review of the Business Forum and potentially the YEP's role in the Business Week (covered later on agenda)

- (2) The public sector membership should be streamlined, and as proposed, should include, the Leader, the Chief Executive and representation from the opposition

The group then discussed:

- **IG** need to make available opportunity to submit other than email
- **CR** not happy with the public participation element but need to be as accessible as possible
- **SK** Task groups should encourage business engagement through them
- **AD** agree managing without closing down the public engagement
- **IG** what about business forum
- **DF** are the Universities public or private?
- **SK** Need a Workshop in June to cover
- **ES** ensuring that small business is engaged Aim to have independent chair of the BEG and vice chair from the group
- **IG** asked SK what do you want from the Board?
- **SK** skills and knowledge we can bring as collaboration and individually making connections top five objectives
- **KP** three or four things priorities should be agreed for delivery
- **AF** these meetings feel more consultative than decision making

- **KP** more decisions at meetings should be made

The group agreed a workshop to be planned for June to explore (a) membership of the Board and (b) priorities.

**SK** finished by confirming that whilst private sector members are keen to be involved particularly through task groups, there was no particular expression of interest in the Vice Chair role, so proposal that the Chair of the Business Engagement Group will take the role.

The group agreed the role of Vice Chair to be held by the Chair of the BEG to be appointed by that group in due course.

<b>Action.</b> Hold a workshop with members to shape priorities and roles of the board
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## 5 Delivering the city's strategy for growth

*Kersten England, Richard Wood, Cllr Dave Merrett and Darren Richardson presented the following;*

- **The planning context** – Draft Local Plan
- **The infrastructure** –West Yorkshire Plus York transport fund/governance
- **The city centre** – Reinvigorate York (Bridge priorities)
- **The development programme** - Get York Building

**SK** asked for feedback from the Board and the group discussed:

- **RF** made the connection to the investment task group's comment and point that there is insufficient land available for commercial development as envisioned by their work.
- **SK** suggested that there is simply not enough employment land in the plan as it stands.
- **DR** suggested that the plan can change and welcome feedback throughout the consultation period
- There was concern raised on whether there could be larger area maps produced given the difficulty of seeing the detail – **RW** looking into this
- The group discussed the need for more around the University; **DM** confirmed there is currently 25 ha at the Heslington East
- Discussion on how to accelerate York Central

- **RF** A64 side of the city bereft of sites, referencing top of A1079
- Discussion followed suggesting a lack of geographical choice, more deliverable options and more on side of city where there is access
- **DR** stated CYC is oven ready for development ...if there are ideas, please bring them forward
- **RF** that is critical point – oven ready and that the plan is not restricted to what is already shown
- **KE** agreed key will be communication about the fact we are open for business to attract inward investment
- **ES** suggested that there are opportunities for small business supply chain for local plan that need promoting

**JA** summarised discussion:

- Need holistic view
- Employment land not enough and not the right type of development for future growth - needs more ambition
- Mode of transport important
- Need communication that we are open for business
- Housing allocation is about right
- Needs to be configured correctly

**Action.** KE to feed into franchising the point on Haxby need for more frequent train service

**Action.** Any further feedback to be formally fed through to CYC via Katie Stewart

**Action.** KS to circulate the current version of the investment prospectus

## **6 York Business Week – feedback and next steps**

**SK** led the discussion asking for initial feedback following previous presentation of the offer and asking for constructive comments from the Board on how we strengthen the event

Suggested this is picked up in the workshop to be scheduled – potential for the Board to take more of a role in this event moving forward

**SK** also asked for ideas/thoughts on the headline speaker for the Business conference – and any assistance the Board can provide in securing such headline speaker

**PC** indicated an interest from Nestle to be involved, although working out the detail of this involvement currently

## **7 Any other business**

**SK** asked for any other business, and given none, closed the meeting

Future meeting dates (4 to 6pm):

- 11<sup>th</sup> July
- 19<sup>th</sup> September
- 14<sup>th</sup> Nov

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM 9<sup>th</sup> MAY BOARD MEETING**

**Action.** CYC to invite Roger Marsh to first possible opportunity to this group to start to build relationship between YEP and LEP Board

**Action.** CYC to provide a more positive statement from James and Barry Dodd

**Action.** BEG to meet and agree alignment with YEP objectives and to discuss the future of the Business Forum

**Action.** YEP to hold a workshop with members to shape priorities and roles of the board

**Action.** KE to feed into franchising the point on Haxby need for more frequent train service

**Action.** Any further feedback to be formally fed through to CYC via Katie Stewart

**Action.** KS to circulate the current version of the investment prospectus