

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

**Meeting: Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013, 4 to 6pm**

**At: Board Room, HSBC, Parliament Street**

**Attending:**

- Stirling Kimkeran (Chair), Omnicom
- Tim Hedley-Jones, East Coast Mainline
- Debbie Megone, CVS
- Angela Darlington, Aviva
- Cllr Ian Gillies, CYC
- Cllr Keith Aspden, CYC
- Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing, CYC (deputy for Cllr James Alexander)
- Andrew Follington, HSBC
- Phil Verster, Network Rail
- David Cox, FSB
- Lady Jane Gibson, VisitYork
- Professor Colin Mellors - University of York
- David Fleming - York St. John University
- Fay Treloar - Science City York (deputy for Nicola Spence)
- Peter Clinker – Nestle
- Jill Hodges, Learning City Partnership

*In attendance*

Katie Stewart, CYC  
Jonathan Walker, CYC  
Martin Grainger, CYC  
Charles Storr, CYC

**Apologies:**

- Brian Cantor (UY)
- Nicola Spence (SCY)
- Keven Parker, Shepherd Group
- Richard Flanagan, YNY Chamber of Commerce
- Kersten England, CYC
- Darren Richardson, CYC

## **ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE:**

### **1 Welcome and apologies**

The above apologies were received.

**SK** thanked Andrew Follington for offering his Board Room for use for the meeting and for providing hospitality.

**SK** wished to express thanks on behalf of the board to the expertise, knowledge and experience that Jill Hodges has brought to the board as this would be her last meeting. The Board agreed that Alison Birkenshaw, principal of York College, is to be approached to join the YEP as the rep for Learning City York.

**Action: Alison Birkenshaw to be confirmed as representative for Learning City York on the Board.**

**SK** asked if Andrew could speak for a few minutes on the current conditions in York on behalf of HSBC.

**AF** explained that:

- HSBC in York has a growing team
- Agriculture is currently a boom sector – land prices
- HSBC York was the fourth largest growing area in the north of England
- Lending is up 30%, and to SMEs is on the increase
- HSBC has 4% of market growth a swing from the average of 9%

**DC** wished to express this was not the picture for small businesses and that retailing in particular has been hit hard.

**SK** asked the board if there were any declarations of interest – there were no declarations of interest.

**SK** asked if any other business has arisen in the run-up to the agenda that may impact on the proposed agenda – There was no other business

### **2 Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2013**

**SK** asked the group if the draft minutes of the last board meeting were an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Minutes were agreed.

### **3 & 4 Update on current economic context including the Spending Review and Performance update and Delivery Plan Monitor**

**KS** presented update on context

*Discussion on Spending Round:*

**SK** asked what the main impacts for the spending review would be for the city

**TSL** expressed increased pressure on budgets meant that services would have to be delivered differently with challenges in Adult Social Care and children's services. **TSL** also mentioned that future health funding could be a future issue.

*Discussion on LEPs*

- **IG** asked whether there was any clarity on whether the new homes bonus would be shifting to LEPs from Local Authorities.
- **KS** mentioned that details of most of the LEP funding arrangements are due to be clarified with technical guidance to follow.
- **TSL** stated that the LGA were challenging any proposed shift in funding; **IG** stated that the Conservative Group would be happy to support any challenge from CYC.
- **DF** indicated that the spending round had included fewer reductions for the higher education sector than had been predicted, although that does not preclude future pressures. He did indicate opportunities from the additional funding to go to the science and research infrastructure.
- **AF** asked whether the split of European funding to both LEPs was on a 50/50 basis; **KS** confirmed this was the current understanding from information provided by Government so far; any further updates would be provided the group.
- **SK** wished to express the perceived value of the YNYER LEP offer in business support/networks, and **KS** indicated that the city will work with the LEP to ensure that from a business perspective,

there is as little change as possible to the current business support infrastructure (and indeed that it is improved).

- **KS** also explained that Vince Cable was had indicated at the local government conference that LEP geographies may be reconsidered, but at this stage, there was little clarity on the issue from Government. Officers and members are continuing to pursue further clarification.
- **AD** asked what the timescales were for confirming new geographies. **KS** said that the changes were imminent with the fact that growth plans would need to be in place by the autumn.
- **IG** expressed that uncertainty was not good and that clarity was needed.
- **JG** and other board members expressed that oven ready projects, a clear vision and delivery plan for York and its sectors were needed to ensure that regardless of where the money is held, the city is in a strong position to secure it for its priorities.
- **SK** suggested that the workshop and the subsequent task and finish groups would be responsible for and directed to providing these actions/priorities for investment.
- **CM** stated that irrelevant of the structure of LEPs or RDAs that the University would continue to support the economy of York.

Discussion on economic indicators and current state of York economy:

**KS** presented update on economic indicators. Discussion followed:

- **SK** asked the group whether the evidence shown and updates align with what the group recognizes from their own experience and what they know from business in York
- The group agreed that York has many strengths including the quality of the workforce, the quality of life, good partnership work and that the council was easy to do business with.
- The group also agreed that York was not sweating these economic assets and that more could be done to deliver jobs worthy of its highly educated population, and thus improving productivity. This resulted in people being in jobs that they were overqualified for and taking those jobs away from people whose skills matched those roles more suitably.

- **JG** stated that the emerging Tourism strategy was all about doubling the value of the industry, increasing productivity, innovation, skills and quality of delivery. **JG** also asked whether we can learn lessons from attracting Hiscox to York – why did they come, what reasons.
- **KS** explained that, based on feedback provided by Hiscox and other companies that have recently located or expanded in the city, it was the quality of the workforce, environment and a Council which was open to bringing new business to the city that was attractive to business (although the Council was seeking to improve its offer further).
- **THJ** confirmed the importance of the rail industry to York as presented. York was a lesser known HQ for rail and that the city has excellent synergy between different companies in the rail industry. He emphasised the importance of the supply chain for the industry to the local economy.
- **SK** emphasised the importance of the industry to his business.
- **PV** and others in the group stated the importance of concentrating on a targeted set of priorities.
- **DF** mentioned the importance of indigenous safe guarding and creation of jobs. He raised a particular issue that YSJ is facing with regard to expansion plans but insufficient space to accommodate this expansion; suggested that the city needs to spend as much time focused on existing business as on inward investors.

**Action: KS is to follow up with YSJ and the need for expansion to create new jobs in the near future – approximately 150**

- **SK** also mentioned his business needed more space but was finding it difficult to find the space needed.

**Action: KS to follow up with Omnicom on further support for finding expansion space**

- **IG** expressed the need for residents, and businesses involvement in the city's growth plans and story.
- **CM** asked what the main blockages are for York to perform better.

- The group agreed that further targeted activity was needed to identify and attract new investment, with a proposal that the group identifies a list of potential inward investors with plans to approach these companies in a proactive targeted way.
- **AF** emphasised the incredible brand York had, nationally and internationally.

## **MAJOR STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS:**

### **5 Local Plan – a YEP response**

**Martin Grainger** from CYC presented status of the Local Plan and asked the group for a response to the proposals currently out for consultation. **MG** explained that this was the first stage of consultation, the preferred options draft and that the consultation on the final document would be in 2014.

Discussion followed:

- **SK** mentioned that the plan is not detailed enough for businesses and that the plan was not economically driven enough considering the council's main priority of create jobs and grow the economy, a gap in the evidence base
- **DF** stated that inward investment opportunities were not prominent in the plan
- **DC** mentioned the importance of road infrastructure and that the plan appeared not to take proper account of this need, particularly in light of the need to move freight and skills.
- **DC** was also concerned about the amount of housing to be delivered without the appropriate investment in the outer ring-road. This had long been a priority for the business community and was identified in the Future York Group report but still no progress.
- **TSL** noted that the cost of dualling was in the region £250 million and that planning gain and section 106 agreement payments could potentially be used for this purpose.
- **JG** asked what the purpose of the plan was and emphasised the importance of the group to read all the documents to fully

understand the impacts.

- **IG** raised point about dialogue between Network Rail and CYC to try and bring forward tram/train with halts at Haxby and Copmanthorpe and how important these could be.
- **PV** explained how complicated the issue was and that finding an operator was a major barrier but Network Rail were always open to discussions
- **AD** stated that the group was not in the position to produce a collective response, but **SK** confirmed that the group would seek to meet with Council officials following the workshop to enable the group to pick up more fully on points raised at the session.

**Action: The Board will provide a response on the Local Plan following the Board's workshop**

**Action: KS and MG to produce a summary of the plan for the Board's use**

## **6 YEP Workshop**

**SK** wished to remind the group of the workshop date of the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013

## **MONITORING & PERFORMANCE:**

## **7 Any other business**

There was no other business

## **8 Close**

Future meeting dates (4 to 6pm):

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

**Summary of action points**

**Action:** Alison Birkenshaw to be confirmed as representative for Learning City York on the Board

**Action:** KS is to follow up with YSJ and the need for expansion to create new jobs in the near future – approximately 150

**Action:** KS to follow up with Omnicom on further support for identifying location for expansion

**Action:** KS and MG to produce an economic summary of the plan for the boards use

**Action:** The Board will provide a response on the Local Plan to be devised from the outcomes of the workshop on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

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