

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

Minutes

DATE: 18th July 2012

TIME: 16:00 – 18:00

VENUE: The Mansion House

PRESENT: Peter Kay – Chair, York Economic Partnership
Kersten England – Chief Executive, CYC
Cllr James Alexander – Leader of the Council
Cllr Ian Gillies – CYC

Cllr Ian Cuthbertson (on behalf of Cllr Carol Runciman) - CYC

Adam Sinclair – Chair, York Business Forum

David Cox – Federation of Small Business

Mike Kneafsey – CPP

Stirling Kimkeran - Omnicom

Brian Cantor – University of York

Andrew Follington - HSBC

Julia Massey – Learning City York

Nicola Spence – Science City York

Gillian Cruddas – VisitYork

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing

Katie Stewart - CYC

Neil Taylor – CYC

Jonathan Walker – CYC

Julie Hayes – The Press
Gwen Swinburn (observing)

APOLOGIES:

- Richard Flanagan - York & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce
- Cllr Carol Runciman

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair:

- welcomed the group, introduced new attendees and acknowledged apologies as above;

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising – 16th May 2012

- JA wished to mention that work is currently being undertaken to assess Car Parking and the use of upper floors of retail properties.
- Otherwise approved

3. Update on current economic context

KS provided an overview of the global, national, regional and local economic and operating context for the city.

Discussion followed:

- City Deals and York's position in the LEP areas were highlighted with an emphasis on Transport and Skills; JM provided detail on skills element; JA explained that York was negotiating its position vis a vis the combined authority for West Yorkshire, and that functional economic geographies were key to transport related issues.
- KE/JA confirmed that the city would not be pooling money unless it benefitted York's economy
- PK asked for confirmation that the Trans-Pennine rail route was to be electrified from Manchester to York as inaccurate

reporting continued in the media – JA confirmed this and noted the importance of this for York.

- KE mentioned that the Franchise of the East Coast Mainline was also an important future issue for York and that CYC will endeavour to get the best for the City from this process
- AS asked whether an announcement was to be made about the potential location of a blue-chip company locating in the city– KS stated that an announcement will be made in due course
- PK asked if the Regional Econometric Model’s projections for York meant that York was in danger of becoming a dormitory town for Leeds. KS agreed to provide more information on work-place based versus resident-based economic performance for discussion at the Sept meeting

Actions:

- KS to prepare further information on the challenges presented by REM forecasts and workplace-based/resident-based figures
- KS to include further information on York commuting patterns and York’s position in the City Region

4. York Economic Strategy – final Strategy and Delivery Plan – Q1 update

KS provided an update on the progress of the Economic Strategy – final strategy published – summary versions printed; delivery plan operational and being monitored. She clarified the distinction between those areas that the YEP would be monitoring for delivery by partners, and those areas that were to be delivered/auctioned by the YEP Board itself.

Discussion followed:

- AS asked about the Economic Infrastructure Fund (EIF) and the projects involved in Re-Invigorate York
- NT agreed to send the details of projects to the YEP Board

- Cllr IC asked if progress would be slower over the holiday period? KS stated this would not have an impact
- AF asked if a Key Performance Indicator set could be created to assess progress of the YEP? KS agreed to look into this further

Actions:

- NT to send details of the Public Realm projects included in the Re-Invigorate York process to the YEP board members
- KS to prepare a KPI list for the YEP – to bring to Sept Board meeting

5. YEP Governance Review

PK introduced the item:

- PK confirmed 22nd November would be his last meeting as chair. He said that the role of chair brought one into contact with important people and was of great interest. He offered his contact details for any potential candidates to contact him for a discussion of the responsibilities of the role.
- A timetable for reappointment of the Chair was agreed, although it was suggested by SK that the person specification needed ASAP for Board members to start to circulate through their networks as soon as possible for potential candidates to consider
- PK clarified that the Deputy Chair would also be chosen from the existing Board
- The Board would invite applications for Chair in the week commencing 3/9/2012 to have the new Chair in place by the November meeting.
- The position would be advertised through the usual business networks and the local press
- KS – to receive comments and suggestions on all the person spec before it is finalised

- The YEP Board stressed the importance of the private sector make-up of the partnership and the balance and representation needed to be increased.
- Cllr IG suggested that it was appropriate to include someone from the transport sector, and the group agreed any further suggestions to be fed through to KS
- BC asked whether the role of the YEP could be strengthened through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council. PK stated that further clarity was needed to define the YEP Board's relationship with the Council. BC indicated his wishes to see the Board as an implementing body not just an advisory body.

Actions:

- KS to circulate the revised person spec for the position of Chair – on which comments will be requested from YEP Board members.
- The YEP Board to consider future Board members – to be agreed at the September Board member
- KS/KE to draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the YEP Board

6. Task and Finish Groups

KS introduced updates on the progress of Task and Finish Groups

Specific Task and Finish updates followed:

Sustainability/Future Cities Task Group

- NS explained to the Board that several pieces of work were ongoing – from the Renewable Energy Partnership, a Heat Map of York was currently being created, with future renewable energy implications and strategies to come out of this
- NS also mentioned that the Futures Cities Demonstrator bid had been submitted to the TSB and feedback on the bid would be received by 20th July.

City Team York

- Members of the City Team fed back to the group after their second meeting on 13th July.
- KS indicated that work was being done to assess the future of the city centre and that this would feed into the Local Plan.
- JA explained much work was being examined for the city centre to ensure its future success and coherence.
- DC suggested that further work could be done to monitor and control the mix of businesses on streets and control too many similar outlets on a particular street.

Internationalisation Task Group

- KS indicated that the last internationalisation task group had met in early spring, and that since that time actions were being taken forward – including roll out of export forums, exploration of strategic twinning and expanding markets for our visitor economy.
- The internationalisation task group would be brought back together in the Autumn to consider next steps, and taking the work to the next level.
- BC, KE and JA agreed that Strategic Twinning with China was of importance. BC stated that The University of York had events in February 2013 in the city of Nanjing. February 2013 was suggested as the time when links with China could be launched.

Infrastructure/transport Task Group

- KS highlighted the High Speed Rail 2 implications for York and the recent announcement of further National rail investment.
- PK explained that the Transport Roundtable event held at the HSBC in September will be of interest.
- NT will provide feedback and further information on Access York Phase 2 back to the YEP.

Actions:

- Further updates to be brought back to the next YEP Board meeting in November, including Transport related issues by NT
- PK and KS to consider how to link the Transport Roundtable to YEP workstream on transport

7. Local Plan

NT provided an update on the progress of the Local Plan

Discussion followed:

- NT stated that the Council had agreed to withdraw the LDF, explaining that reactive and proactive reasons were for this to bring the plan in to line with the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2 Years would be needed to re-align the work currently done on the LDF to adhere to the NPPF
- The Vision for the city would be re-visited by the latter part of 2012 to take account of the current economic climate.
- MK asked what added value would be achieved in the two years. NT replied that a smoother, quicker, more confident planning system would be in place to aid inward investment and bolster confidence in the city.
- Cllr IC stated it was vital the Local Plan was delivered.
- PK asked if the plan would be adopted or submitted by 2014. NT replied, submitted.
- JA explained the difficult political differences in the city with regards to planning issues.
- BC expressed concern over the timing for submission with elections taking place.
- PK emphasised that a sound Local Plan was needed.
- Cllr IG expressed the complications for delivery of York Central.

- BC stated that further resource was not needed but strong leadership was needed to deliver the Local Plan.
- NT will provide quarterly updates on progress to the YEP Board.

8. York Business Week

PK updated the Board on progress with York Business Week.

Feedback was as follows;

- York Business Week is wc 12/11/2012
- A main sponsor is still needed for the event, although The University of York, York ST John University CYC and the Shepherd Group are sponsors
- A headline speaker is also needed
- The Full programme of events and website will be released soon

9. Any other business

No further matters to discuss

Future Meeting Dates

20th September

22nd November (please note this change from original date)

17th January 2013