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

**Meeting:** Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013, 4 to 6pm

**At: Innovation Centre, York Science Park**

**Attending:**

- Stirling Kimkeran (Chair), Omnicom
- Tim Hedley-Jones, East Coast Mainline
- Keven Parker, Shepherd Group
- Cllr James Alexander, CYC
- Cllr Ian Gillies, CYC
- David Cox, FSB
- Stephen Hind – Deputy for Phil, Verster, Network Rail
- Kersten England, CYC
- Darren Richardson, CYC
- Peter Clinker, Nestle
- Fay Trelor – Deputy for Nicola Spence, SYC
- Lady Jane Gibson, VisitYork
- Cllr Keith Aspden, CYC
- Professor Colin Mellors – Deputy for Dr. Jane Grenville, University of York

*In attendance*

Katie Stewart, CYC  
Charles Storr, CYC  
Andrew Sharp, CYC  
Nathan Vasey, CYC  
Emma Smailes, FSB

**Apologies:**

- Andrew Follington, HSBC
- Gary Jones, CVS
- Phil Verster, Network Rail
- Angela Darlington, Aviva
- Nicola Spence, SCY
- Professor David Fleming, York St. John University
- Dr. Jane Grenville, University of York
- Alison Birkinshaw, York College

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**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.

Tim Hedley-Jones (THJ) provided an update on ECML developments regarding station and re-franchising. He updated on the expected timeline of developments, with an **early January announcement of the bidders, October announcement of the new operator and the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015 as the takeover date.**

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July**

*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. SK requested that actions in future meetings minutes to be numbered for ease of reference

**(1) ACTION:** Actions to be numbered in the minutes for future meetings

**3. Performance report**

*Dashboard to be circulated with agenda*

Katie Stewart (KS) introduced the performance dashboard, and talked through the performance and operation update:

- **Footfall** – the trend Sept-Nov was down however the most recent figures showed a positive Dec increase of 7.3% on the previous year
- **Business Starts / Deaths** – the trend for both business starts and deaths is down and this is something to pay attention to and monitor
- **GVA per head** – has increased
- **Earnings gap** – the gap between the highest and lowest earners has grown, although not significantly.

KS updated the board on the LEPs and the City of York update:

- West Yorkshire Combined Authority scheme has been submitted with York as a non-constituent member and is in consultation until January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014
- The LEP Strategic Economic Plans had today (19 Dec) been submitted to Government
- **Investors Week** – 30<sup>th</sup> Oct – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. Started some positive dialog with

potential investors

- **York Business Week** – 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov
- **York Central** - £10m earmarked for development to provide access
- **York Investment Plan** – currently being drafted
- **Funding** – 4 York companies have been approved through the Business Growth Programme (over £380k of business investment)

KS identified the key opportunities to consider:

- **MIPIM 2014** – York to attend
- **University Enterprise Zones**
- **Technology Strategy Board**

KS asked if any members of the Board or their organizations would be attending MIPIM. It was suggested that KS speak with Richard Flanagan (RF) about anyone he knows is attending MIPIM. Stephen Hind (SH) commented that people from Network Rail's London office were attending and will discuss further with KS.

Kevin Parker (KP) offered advice on how to get the most from attending MIPIM, based on previous experience.

Comments were made about the possibility of a London version of MIPIM. It was discussed that the Board should be aware of and inputting to the city's involvement in order to work together.

**(2) ACTION:** KS to liaise with RF to understand who is attending MIPIM

**(3) ACTION:** KS and SH to discuss a potential link between CYC attendance and the London office of Network Rail's attendance

**(4) ACTION:** KP to advise the team attending on how to get the most out of MIPIM

**(5) ACTION:** KS and team to explore the London event and possible attendance to showcase York

**(6) ACTION:** KS to send dates and details of the city's involvement at MIPIM to the Board for consideration

KS asked the group for feedback on the dashboard:

- Cllr Keith Aspden (KA) requested that business starts be monitored by sector
- David Cox (DC) added that business deaths should also be monitored by sector.
- Cllr Ian Gillies (IG) raised questions over the reliability of the footfall data by only one camera and reiterated the need for consistency in the data. KS replied

that the data will remain consistent from the camera currently used and added that additional cameras will have a wider range for recording data.

- Peter Clinker asked for clarity on the difference between business starts and births. KS outlined that business births are recorded when a business becomes VAT registered and starts are measured by the opening of business bank accounts.
- SH and Lady Jane Gibson (LJG) commented that there is a risk of businesses being sold and those retiring could be wrongly recorded as a death when actually a positive outcome.

**(7) ACTION:** KS and team to explore in further detail the business starts and deaths by sectors. They will also seek to understand whether there are any anomalies in this reporting.

## **STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS:**

### **4. 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](#)*

### **New agency for attracting visitors and inward investment**

KS updated the Board on the new agency for attracting visitors and inward investment:

- Report went to Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> November and in principle agreement was given for the development of the new inward investor and visitor agency
- Work is now underway to develop, with partners, the business case and plan for Cabinet in early 2014

Lady Jane Gibson (LJB) added that they were now in the process of R&D working with VisitYork and identified how the new agency will need different customer facing brands in order to attract the different customers.

KP commented that the new agency was a smart way forward whilst identifying that a lot of time will be needed to set it up and make sure it is focused and held to account.

Cllr Ian Gillies (IG) agreed with the agency in principle but warned that different objectives will be wanted from the agency from different stakeholders, and the process to create the new agency should be progressed relatively quickly in order to avoid negativity arising.

Fay Trelor (FT) recommended that, as project support to the new agency, she attends individual task group meetings. Also commented that updates should be sent out to

partner groups (e.g. Business Engagement Group) in order to keep up to date. The recruitment of the Transitional Chair was discussed, with questions raised about the process and specification. It was agreed that the Transitional Chair should also be invited to be a member of the YEP Board.

**RESOLUTION:** The YEP Investment Task Group will be engaged in shaping the new agency with a further report back to YEP in March.

**(8) ACTION:** FT as project support to attend the individual task group meetings

**(9) ACTION:** KS to circulate the dates for implementation of the new agency's business case, plan and development

**(10) ACTION:** FT to prepare an ongoing bullet point update for the Board

**(11) ACTION:** KS to circulate the advert and job description for the new Transitional Chair for the agency

### **Mechanisms for facilitating development**

KS and Darren Richardson (DR) presented on the development of an investment pipeline and the work to engage with investors following investors week:

- Report went to Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> November and in principle agreement was given for the development of new mechanisms (potentially Joint Venture) to facilitate development
- Work is now underway to develop, with partners, the business case and plan for Cabinet in early 2014

Several members of the Board agreed that the proposed mechanisms would provide an ideal opportunity and are needed. It was highlighted that the risks and rewards need to be clear. Overall approval from the Board to continue developing these mechanisms.

**RESOLUTION:** The YEP Space and Infrastructure Task Group will be engaged in shaping the new mechanisms

### **West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA)**

KS and DR presented the current status of the proposed WYCA and encouraged questions:

- Scheme to create WYCA with Parliament and out to consultation until 2 January 2014– scheme includes City of York Council as a non-constituent member
- Benefits of the WYCA were outlined which included closer economic and

transport links with Leeds City Region and giving the city a greater say in the management and spending of both West Yorkshire Plus York Transport Fund and the Revolving Investment Fund, as well as future further funds that the CA may attract/develop.

- With the West Yorkshire Transport Fund and CA involvement, it is understood that CYC will have access to £83m apposed to £15m without.

The group discussed the process by which York projects would be assessed for funding through these mechanisms. Responding, DR outlined that projects would be subject to assessment criteria for funds.

Kersten England (KE) questioned if the draft plan had been circulated throughout the board. KS explained that it had been requested that they were not circulated before submission, although will be after submission to Government; KS to distribute to the Board when available.

Emma Smailes (ES) questioned the powers that the Combined Authority would have over raising business rates. KE commented that in order for any extension of powers to the WYCA, a consultation would have to take place.

IG suggested that the key question to ask with regard to the city's involvement in the CA was, if it would be good for York. He added that York would not automatically have full voting rights as a non-constituent member. He suggested that more consultation with businesses was needed.

James Alexander (JA) clarified that the city was a member of the Shadow Board and that the city was pursuing full membership, pending legislative reform, which would give the city full voting rights.

Colin Mellors (CM) commented that the city should engage with as many such opportunities/partnerships as possible as the city has the opportunity to do so and gain from multiple such partnerships.

**(12) ACTION:** KS to circulate LEP SEPs when available

## **5. Task Group reports and recommendations**

**Purpose:** *To receive reports and recommendations for YEP task groups **Minutes** where available circulated with agenda*

### **5a. Investment Task Group (ITG)**

KP reported on the ITG's proposals to drive investment using a strategic approach. The shortlist of target sectors was outlined; a plan to undertake more detailed market analysis on these sectors including an identification of a target list of potential inward investors in these sectors was presented.

The Board discussed the ITG plans and CM commented that it is the individuals within business that make the ultimate decision to invest and to use relationships that the Board already have.

**RESOLUTION:** Board endorsed the strategic approach

**RESOLUTION:** Board approved the shortlist of target sectors

**RESOLUTION:** Board advised to follow by meeting with relevant contacts within their networks

**(13) ACTION:** ITG to report the plan and target companies to the March Board

### **5b. Business Engagement Group (BEG)**

Charles Storr (CS) presented on the BEG:

- CS asked the Board for guidance on how the York Business Week (YBW) should be taken forward as the Director has now stepped down and will not be organising it in 2014.
- A number of YBW events were recognised nationally by Global Entrepreneurship Week, winning high impact awards
- Could combining YBW and York Investors Week be possible and still effective?
- Should we focus on events throughout the year and promote them under the banner of York Means Business?
- Which organisation should drive this forward?

The Board discussed the YBW and ES commented that any decision should be careful not to lose the innovative and creative minds behind the YBW, such as those in the Steering Group and CYCs Economic Development Unit.

The group decided that no further action should be taken until after the York Business Week Steering Group meet in January, at which point the YEP Board will be asked for further input.

**(14) ACTION:** CS to circulate feedback from the YBW Steering Group at the end of January, for the Board's view on a way forward for YBW.

### **5c. Productivity Group**

CS presented on the Productivity Group, highlighting:

- Productivity remains a challenge for the York economy, although the most recent data presented on the YEP Performance Dashboard suggests there has been an improvement in the most recent data recorded.

- Total GVA and proportion of the regional GVA for York has increased since 2008
- However, compared to cities across the UK with similar economic structure (i.e. similar sector composition), the city does not “punch at its weight”
- Much of this is due to lower productivity sectors increasing in proportion in recent years, and partially also due to decline of manufacturing
- Nonetheless, the city’s productivity at 2012 was recorded above the overall national index for productivity at 101.1

CS concluded by recommending that the Board confirm direction to the Productivity Task Group to explore two strands of actions:

- Continue to improve the productivity of low value sectors in York’s economy – primarily through innovation
- Identify ways of supporting the growth of high value sectors as a proportion of York’s overall economy

KE suggested the group should also explore ways of overcoming the challenge high value employers face in recruiting employees with the right skills, as faced particularly in the engineering sector but potentially others. KE also recommended that Alison Birkinshaw be asked to join the Group.

JA suggested that the Productivity Group should also look into proposals for tech colleges.

CM offered help from the University’s economists and statisticians in order for the Productivity statistics to be properly understood.

**RESOLUTION:** Board approved the proposal to develop actions to continue the work to increase Productivity in the low productivity areas and facilitate growth in the high value sectors, with the additions suggested to explore skills and tech colleges, and to add Alison Birkinshaw to the group

#### **5d. City Centre Group (CCG)**

David Cox (DC) and LJG updated the Board on progress on the city centre agenda and particularly on the refresh underway of the City Team York:

- Currently recruiting a new Chair for the group
- The last meeting a change of management structure was discussed
- Decided that the new Chair will decide any changes to structure and the terms of reference

Board noted the progress in refreshing the CTY and the current process of appointing a new Chair.

**5d. Space and Infrastructure Group (SIG)**

KS reported the progress of the SIG, tabling a chart of potential office space to target in York.

**RESOLUTION:** Board endorsed the approach to targeting Grade B/C office stock

**RESOLUTION:** Board to input to target list

**RESOLUTION:** Board endorsed further work to develop option of incentivising refurbishment of stock

**RESOLUTION:** Board approved group's involvement of Joint Venture activity for the city

**(15) ACTION:** Board to feedback via email on possible office stock they are aware needs refurbishing.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**6. Any other business**

LJG updated the group on a recent success in Growth Funding, creating 136 indirect jobs

The Board thanked Cllr Ian Gillies for his contribution to the YEP and congratulated him on this forthcoming post as the Lord Mayor.

SK closed the meeting

**Date and time of the next YEP Board meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 16:00 to 18:00, venue tbc

## **SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS, 19 September 2013**

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