

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

Meeting: Thursday, 19th September 2013, 4 to 6pm

At: Academy Rooms 4 and 5, York Station
(East Coast Mainline hosting)

Attending:

- Stirling Kimkeran (Chair), Omnicom
- Tim Hedley-Jones, East Coast Mainline
- Angela Darlington, Aviva
- Keven Parker, Shepherd Group
- Cllr James Alexander, CYC
- Cllr Ian Gillies, CYC
- David Cox, FSB
- Stephen Hind – Deputy for Phil, Verster, Network Rail
- David Fleming - York St. John University
- Nicola Spence (SCY)
- Kersten England, CYC
- Darren Richardson, CYC
- Richard Flanagan, YNY Chamber of Commerce

In attendance

Katie Stewart, CYC

Charles Storr, CYC

Jane Collingwood, CYC

Apologies:

- Andrew Follington, HSBC
- David Fleming, York St. John University
- Debbie Megone, CVS
- Brian Cantor, UY
- Peter Clinker, Nestle
- Cllr Keith Aspden, CYC
- Phil Verster, Network Rail
- Lady Jane Gibson, VisitYork

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE:

1. Welcome, apologies, and declarations of interests and other business arising

SK welcomed the group and asked for declarations of interest/other business arising relating to agenda.

SK thanked Tim Hedley Jones (THJ) for hosting the meeting at the Academy Rooms, and asked him to provide an update on East Coast Main Line news and activity.

THJ provided update on ECML developments regarding station and re-franchising. He updated on dialogue he had had with CYC officers on the work CYC is leading to coordinate ECML authorities in the identification of investment priorities. He suggested there was an opportunity for YEP board to engage with shortlisted bidders for the ECML re-franchise.

Kersten England (KE) confirmed that ECML authorities would be engaging re-franchise shortlisted bidders in the new year, and JA emphasized the potential importance of setting out clearly and publicly the YEP Board's priorities for the franchise.

Stephen Hind (SH) emphasized the importance that city and rail industry collaboration has made to developments like Newcastle's station and surrounding developments.

RESOLUTION: The group agreed that the Board should receive an update on ECML franchising and rail opportunities at the December Board, and that an opportunity for the group to engage with franchisee

ACTION: YEP Board to consider ECML authorities investment priorities and re-franchise opportunity at December Board.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th July

Minutes circulated with agenda

KE asked to confirm whether a formal thank you had been made to Brian Cantor for his contributions to the Board.

3. Performance report

Dashboard circulated with agenda

KS introduced the performance dashboard, and took the group through exceptions to trends:

- **Unemployment differential with national rate** – so the difference between York and UK averages has lessened, although York's remains lower than the national
- **Footfall** – a trend over recent 12 months which is being monitored, and new cameras fitted to identify how much of this is a genuine decline and how much is changing patterns in the city centre
- **GVA per head** – a trend worth noting for the Board, given the Board's focus on the productivity challenge
- **Business starts and births** – both early starts as recorded by business bank accounts and VAT registration rates have seen a slight decline – possibly a temporary phenomenon given relative strength in these indicators in recent months, but one that CYC will be monitoring
- **Earnings gap** – the gap between the highest and lowest earners has grown, although not significantly.

KS asked the group for feedback on the dashboard:

- Keven Parker (KP) commented that it was helpful to get so much information on two sides A4; suggested that next step would be to connect more effectively to the priorities identified by the Board
- There were questions raised about the footfall data, which had shown a decline in recent months; KS replied that the data was based on a limited number of cameras, one of which was decommissioned recently. As such, the decline could be as much an indication of changing patterns in city centre movement and development as a genuine decline in visitors to the centre. As a result, her team were looking to install new cameras more widely across the city to understand these changed patterns, and to more accurately measure city centre trends.

ACTION: KS to revise dashboard according to priority themes identified by the Board

KE and JA provided update on **LEP agenda**:

- indicating that West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Scheme was submitted to Government with York a non-constituent member, but pursuing full membership pending changes to legislation
- CYC working with both LEPs to shape Strategic Economic Plans (SEPs)
- CYC also working with both LEPs to shape their European programmes
- JA confirmed that York was working positively with both LEPs, but that the Council had worked with partners and Government to clarify that York's major infrastructure priorities were with and would be funded through Leeds City Region LEP, whereas there would be areas on business and sectoral growth where the city would be working with York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP

KS provided introduction to **local update**, starting with introducing the Council's emerging response to the YEP priorities. She explained that the Council was working with partners to explore new delivery models to addressing two key agendas:

- for raising the profile of the city and attracting new investment and visitors to the city on the one hand, and
- facilitating development of key sites.

KE explained that the Council and partners including especially Visit York, Science City York and Universities were all starting to consider how better to promote the city with and attract key audiences, and that initial work was being undertaken to explore models similar to those of London and Partners and Opportunity Peterborough, which provide a joined up approach to promotion of the city and attraction of inward investment and visitors. The Council and partners are thus keen to explore the potential for developing a **city-wide marketing and business development agency**, although the intention would be to work with YEP Board as a key partner in the development of any such new models.

Darren Richardson (DR) then indicated that the Council was exploring the potential of creating a **new approach to facilitating development of key and strategic sites across the city**. The work follows the Council's delegation to MIPIM 2013, and soft market testing since as to the appetite from potential investors. The Council is now looking to work with partners to explore the option of developing an asset-backed vehicle or other similar model to attract investment to accelerate development in the city in line with the city's economic ambitions.

KS proposed that YEP Board members work with Council team to develop proposals for new ways of working on these two agendas.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved this proposal.

ACTION: KS to liaise with Board members to confirm engagement on proposals

KS provided update on development of a York Investors Week at end October to which the city will be inviting potential investors, developers and landowners to consider opportunities for moving forward development across York's key and strategic development sites.

IG and KP made suggestions/offer of links to existing partners in the city that would have links to potential investors to involve in engagement on potential development and the upcoming investors event.

ACTION: KS to follow up with IG and KP on contacts for investors week.

IG and SK asked as to the progress and wider communication on progress of York

Central site. DR and SH provided update, and DR continued to update on wider progress of brownfield sites across the city.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS:

4. YEP Workshop – report and recommendations

Purpose: *To consider recommendations arising from YEP Workshop. Report circulated with agenda*

SK provided headline summary of the workshop findings as outlined in the report and asked the group to approve recommendations.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved the following recommendations:

- **Note the points raised by the workshop**
- **Agree Board-level actions (following para 7 in the report), including a move to quarterly Board meetings, which requires revision to Board Terms of Reference**
- **Agree the creation of task groups as proposed in the report**

ACTION: KS to confirm with Board members task group schedule and membership.

5. Establishment of task groups and action plans

Purpose: *To agree objectives and action plans for task groups.*

- **Investment Task Group**

Nicola Spence (NS) provided update on evidence base gathering undertaken by CYC and shaped by input from members of the proposed task group. She explained that informal dialogue has been undertaken with members of the workshop group and following Board meeting, further work will be undertaken by the group to firm up a strategy for inward investment in the city.

ACTION: Investment Task Group to report back to the December Board on the “who” and “how” of the emerging inward investment strategy.

- **Business Engagement Group**

NS again reported back from the most recent meeting of this group which is already in place but which has agreed to make its links with YEP Board formal to pursue the following objectives for the YEP:

- To represent the voice of business to the YEP Board
- To communicate the actions and proposals of the YEP Board to the business community

She indicated that the group would be presenting the Board with a kind of “mandate” focused on the wider business community and what it has to offer the Board, and hence providing a basis for the Board’s interaction with that wider community going forward.

NS also indicated that the BEG would restart the Business Forum on new footing, starting with the opportunity to engage the business community in the priorities now established by the YEP Board. Further details will be presented to the Board at the next meeting of the Board.

ACTION: BEG to present its mandate document to the Board in December

ACTION: BEG to review/present options for re-starting the Business Forum to December YEP Board

SK asked the Board to confirm an earlier resolution by the Board that the Chair of the BEG would be asked to be the Vice Chair of the YEP Board by the Board.

RESOLUTION: The Board agreed that the Chair of the BEG would be the Vice Chair of the YEP Board.

- **Space and Infrastructure Group**

The workshop group report back confirmed the objectives for the group:

- Take a lead role in facilitating improved transport infrastructure for the city – intra-city and regionally, predominantly but also engaging in ECML franchising work
- Take a lead role in developing and promoting the case for development of key sites, existing and new, to meet the needs of business in the city

RF reported back on preliminary work undertaken by himself and KS to map out potential target sites from around the city, predominantly focused on the city centre, in terms of potential for redevelopment in response to the lack of quality commercial premises.

ACTION: KS to circulate confidential report on potential target sites to the Board for views, input, which will then be used to finalise the list and provide a target list for the task group to approach.

THJ provided insight as to the workshop group's other main objective on infrastructure, and confirmed the opportunity for the Board to engage positively with upcoming rail developments, picked up earlier in the agenda.

- **Productivity Group**

KE confirmed that the productivity group had not yet met following the workshop, but reported back from the workshop, confirming the objectives of the group:

- Lift the productivity of the high employment sectors
- Increase employment in the high productivity sectors

KE confirmed that the group was keen to look in particular at a commitment to providing internships to graduates. The Board discussed potential of using Business Week to engage with graduates.

ACTION: PG to explore opportunity of graduate internships, starting with engagement at York Business Week

She also suggested a need to recruit a private sector (or 2) members for the group, as well as recommendation that Alison Birkenshaw, newest member of the Board and Principal for York College to be recruited to the group.

SK and KP volunteered to join the productivity group.

ACTION: Confirm new membership of the Productivity Group to include AB, SK and KP

- **City centre Group**

David Cox (DC) reported back on the findings of the workshop group, and confirmed that the Group's objectives were to:

- Facilitate an increase in footfall in York's city centre
- Facilitate an increase in spend per visitor
- Facilitate a welcoming city centre to the visitor, investor and resident

He confirmed that the task group would seek to work with the City Team York which was already established as an independent group.

He indicated that the YEP city centre task group would be meeting in early October to kick off this work and the intention for the group to review the Grimsey Review findings and how these can be applied to work in the city.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

6. Any other business

Living Wage Campaign – Update and Next Steps

JA and KE provided update on the campaign, and Jane Collingwood from the Council attended to present an update on living wage campaign for the Council.

The Board members discussed the campaign.

ACTION: Further information on living wage campaign to be circulated to the Board

ACTION: BEG to consider how to disseminate information about the campaign more widely amongst the business community.

Invitation to join the Board – Hiscox

KS asked to confirm whether the Board wishes to formalize its invitation to Hiscox to join the Board formally.

RESOLUTION: The Board confirmed it will invite Hiscox to join the Board

ACTION: KS to arrange invitation to be sent from SK to Hiscox to join the Board

Forward Plan

KS asked members to expect a forward plan to be circulated capturing the activity of the YEP Board, as mapped against business-relevant events and milestones across the upcoming 12-month period. She would be asking members to input events/milestones as not already captured in the draft.

ACTION: KS to circulate YEP Board forward plan for input from members.

SK closed the meeting

Date and time of next YEP Board meeting: 19th December, 16.00 to 18.00, venue tbc

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS, 19 September 2013

YEP Board to consider ECML authorities investment priorities and re-franchise opportunity at December Board.

KS to revise dashboard according to priority themes identified by the Board

KS to liaise with Board members to confirm engagement on proposals for new models to deliver business development, marketing and development of key sites.

KS to follow up with IG and KP on contacts for investors week, as well as wider Board members on the detail of the week.

KS to confirm with Board members task group schedule and membership.

Investment Task Group to report back to the December Board on the “who” and “how” of the emerging inward investment strategy.

BEG to present its mandate document to the Board in December

BEG to review/present options for re-starting the Business Forum to December YEP Board

KS to circulate confidential report from the Space and Infrastructure Group on potential target sites to the Board for views, input, which will then be used to finalise the list and provide a target list for the task group to approach.

PG to explore opportunity of graduate internships, starting with engagement at York Business Week

Confirm new membership of the Productivity Group to include AB, SK and KP

Further information on living wage campaign to be circulated to the Board

BEG to consider how to disseminate information about the campaign more widely amongst the business community.

KS to arrange invitation to be sent from SK to Hiscox to join the Board

KS to circulate YEP Board forward plan for input from members.