
WITHOUT WALLS LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

YORK ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Minutes

DATE: 25th September 2012

TIME: 15:30 – 17:30

VENUE: HSBC, Parliament Street, York City Centre

PRESENT: Peter Kay – Chair, York Economic Partnership
Cllr James Alexander – Leader of the Council
Cllr George Barton (deputy for Cllr Ian Gillies)
David Cox – Federation of Small Business
Angela Darlington (Aviva)
Kersten England – Chief Executive, CYC
Andrew Follington – HSBC
Jill Hodges (CYC Learning City Partnership)
Stirling Kimkeran – Omnicom
Debbie Megone – York CVS
Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing
Fay Treloar – (deputy for Nicola Spence Science City York)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Julie Hayes – York Press
Neil Taylor – CYC
Martin Grainger - CYC
Katie Stewart - CYC
Jonathan Walker – CYC

APOLOGIES:

- Cllr Ian Gillies
- Cllr Carol Runciman
- Nicola Spence

- Brian Cantor
- Dave Bruce
- Gillian Cruddass
- Adam Sinclair
- Richard Flanagan
- Gwen Swinburn
- Julia Massey
- Darren Richardson

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the group, introduced new attendees, acknowledged apologies as above and thanked HSBC for hosting the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising – 18th July 2012

- KS – informed the group that issues related to the resident and work place data for York will be brought to the November YEP meeting.
- KE – expressed her thanks to the group for the re-arrangement of the meeting due to the attendance of members of the YEP at a meeting with Vince Cable.
- KE and JA wished to inform the group of the upcoming East Coast Mainline Franchise due in 2014. CYC will be meeting in early October and KS will send through any relevant information to the YEP board
- PK asked how influential the city will be and KE and JA expressed a greater role than before and through the devolution afforded by the City Deal.
- Minutes approved

Actions:

- KS to forward relevant information or meetings on the ECML to the board.

3. Update on current economic context

- KS provided an overview of the global, national, regional and local economic and operating context for the city.
- Further information and issues raised were as follows;

- KE informed the board about the recent meeting with Vince Cable and that representatives of York have expressed the importance of infrastructure investment to the delivery of York Central.
- JA explained that York was developing its Internationalisation agenda through various engagement and links with the following cities;
 - Dijon
 - Chicago
 - Nanjing – China
 - Shanghai – China
 - Chongqing – China
- KE asked the group for insight on current economic climate from a business perspective
- DC informed the board that there had been a drop in confidence in the economy reported by the Federation of Small Businesses.
- PK and DC explained that the Olympics and Jubilee had had an impact on business conditions, as a distraction from usual business behaviours; however there have been no significant unpleasant shocks in the economy at the moment. This sentiment was shared by AF as HSBC had seen businesses performing well and numbers in distress are very low.
- The Board agreed that there were many positive messages about the York Economy and that this information needed to be shared to the wider community. The YEP communications strategy should define the best way forward.
- JA raised some forthcoming work to enable CYC to do more for the business community with regards to local supply chains and local procurement. This would be reported in the near future.

Actions

- KS to work with CYC comms resource to develop comms plan/strategy for the Board
- Future updates to include updates on international activity for the city

4. YEP Governance review

Purpose: to consider MoU between YEP and CYC, revised Terms of Reference, and confirm Board Membership, Chair selection panel and review of Business Forum

- PK introduced an update on the review of governance of the YEP Board
- Issues raised were as follows;
 - The group considered the MoU and agreed it was a sensible way forward
 - PK and the wider board suggested more time was needed to formally accept the MoU at the November meeting of the YEP Board.
 - The Board also discussed the wider function of the Business Forum.
 - JA suggested that a refresh of membership was needed and that it needed to be extended to young entrepreneurs and start-up businesses
 - PK expressed that the link between the Forum and YEP needed to be strengthened and expressed more clearly. The Forum members need to see that issues raised at Forums are being taken forward
 - The YEP Board discussed the possibility for public representation at the board meetings. After some discussion it was agreed that KS would look at the issues and parameters for this point, and bring a recommendation back to the Board.
 - DC suggested that a list of deputies should be created, and PK asked members to please provide name and contacts of stand-in deputies to the YEP Board
 - PK and the wider group confirmed the selection panel for the new chair;
 - James Alexander
 - Angela Darlington
 - Peter Kay
 - Richard Flanagan
 - David Fleming

Actions:

- KS would provide further guidance and recommendation on public engagement at the YEP Board meetings
- Board members to indicate standing deputies to KS
- Board to agree MoU at November meeting

5. Fairness Commission

Purpose: To consider recommendation to endorse the Fairness Commission's recommendation of fairness principles

- PK introduced the item, indicating that he had received a letter from the Chair of the Fairness Commission, Ruth Redfern, seeking endorsement of the 10 Fairness Principles. He asked the group to consider whether the Board endorse these principles
- DC noted that the FSB could not endorse the fairness commission principle 1, specifically the example of the Living Wage. PK and others expressed the fact that this was aspirational and not prescriptive.
- GB indicated that the Conservative Group was not able to support endorsement, as it was felt by members that the principles were not likely to make a difference and that it is impossible to tell a business how to operate
- Discussion followed, with several further members indicating that whilst the aspiration of the principles was something they could support, it was not possible for the Board to endorse.
- PK recommended to report that the information had been tabled to the YEP Board and that the information on the principles would be circulated further to those organisations deemed appropriate but that a formal decision to endorse had not been made by the Board.

6. Task and Finish Groups

Purpose: To receive updates and discuss outcomes of task and finish groups held since last Board meeting

- KS introduced an update on the progress of Task and Finish Groups
- Feedback was as follows;
 - JA and DC gave the latest update on the City Team – a photo call had taken place and positive media releases starting to make it out into the press
 - FT (on behalf of Nicola Spence) reported to the group on progress with the Business Engagement Group. She indicated that the group wished to be a task group of the YEP Board in order to facilitate links between the business networks and support organisations in the city and the work of the YEP.

Actions:

- KS to bring web analytics to the November YEP board for the York Means Business Website
- Business Engagement Group to report to YEP Board in future as a task group of the YEP

7. Local Plan

***Purpose:** To provide update on and opportunity for discussion/input to visioning work for local plan*

- NT provided an update on the progress of the Local Plan
- Feedback was as follows;
 - PK asked for feedback on the report to be given back to KS by the end of October
 - PK asked for clarity on the submission date of the plan. NT stated April/May 2014
 - AF expressed that 2014 was a long time, given that the plan had been worked on a substantial amount of time.
 - PK enquired about the current planning allocations and whether they were widely available to the business environment. NT explained that the 2005 Development Control Plan was the current planning position and that this was well-known in the wider community.
 - PK also enquired and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). NT explained that this was being reviewed.

Actions:

- Board members to feedback comments on local plan visioning item to KS by end of October.

8. Any other Business

- PK updated the Board on progress with York Business Week.
 - York Business Week is w/c 12/11/2012
 - A main sponsor has been agreed, but being confirmed
 - The Full programme of events and website will be released soon
- JA also introduced the issue of Localised Business Rates and the options being explored as per the potential for pooling with LCR authorities.
- AF asked whether we would have say over the spend of investment in such a scheme; JA indicated moreso than without

- PK asked if this could be discussed in further detail at a future YEP Board.

Future Meeting Dates

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

17th January 2013

14th March 2013