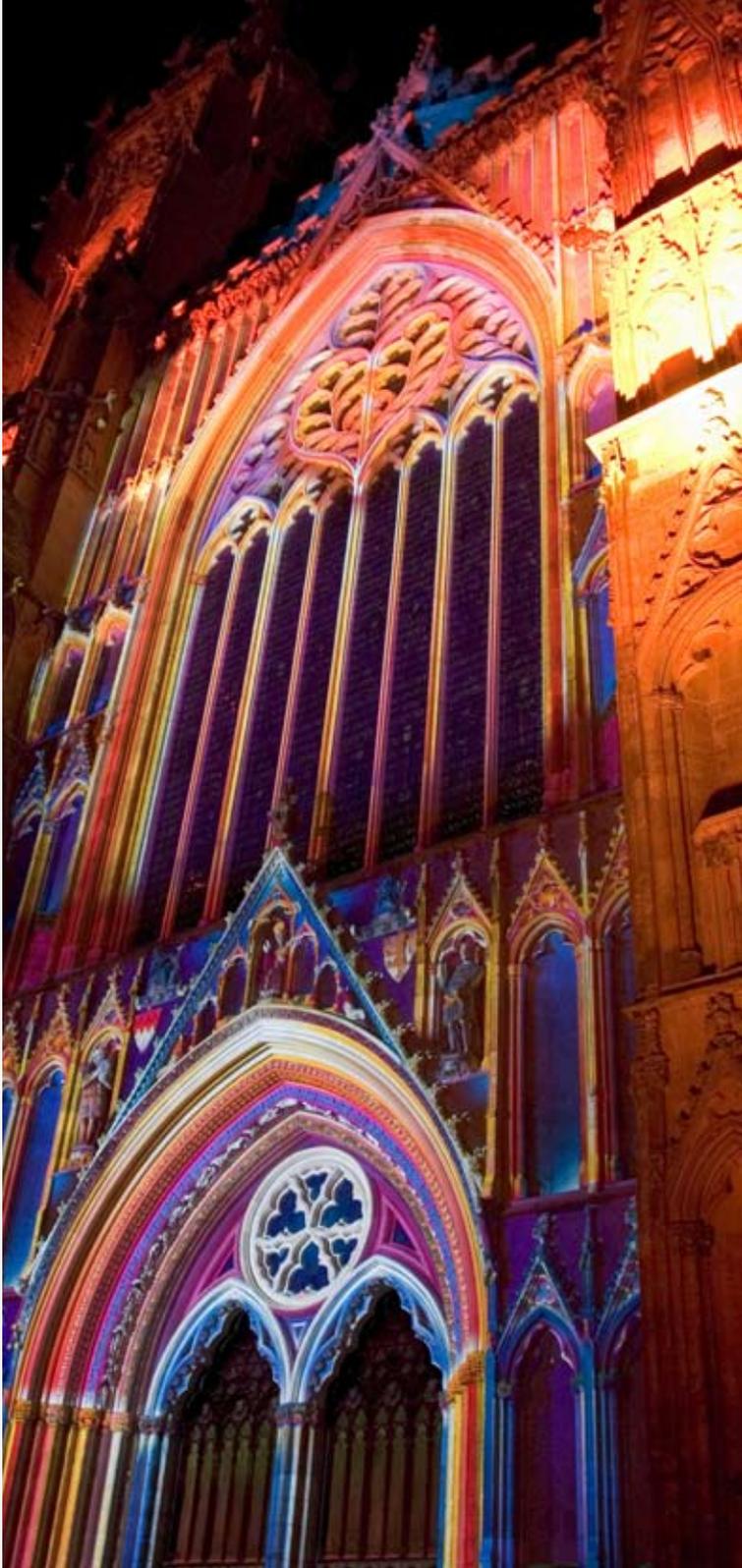


YORK – A CITY MAKING HISTORY
Vision and Sustainable
Community Strategy
2008 – 2025

SUSTAINABLE W O W I N C L U S I V E
BUSINESS W O W L E A R N I N G W O W
C U L T I D E W O W H E A L T H W O W

YORKWOW



WHAT IS WITHOUT WALLS?

For many people, York is a great place to live and the city's many assets, such as the Minster, are world famous. But what sort of place do we want York to be in the future? And is enough being done to make the best use of our assets for everyone's benefit? How can we build upon the city's distinctiveness to improve it still further?

With a healthy economy and low unemployment, York compares well when measured against other British cities. There are now huge opportunities for the city that will shape the next thirty years. As well as these there are challenges such as congestion, rising house prices and skills shortages which we need to deal with in order to remain competitive

'Without Walls' is a group of people who are working together to develop a shared vision and look at ways to improve quality of life for people in the city. This partnership (officially the Local Strategic Partnership or LSP) is made up of representatives of public, voluntary and business organisations in York. Partners include the police, council, health, voluntary agencies and local businesses.

The result of their work is the Sustainable Community Strategy that follows, based around seven 'themes' – areas we want to concentrate on to improve the quality of life for everyone in the city. However, this cannot be just the work of Without Walls – we need your help if we are to achieve this.

FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

Throughout the summer of 2003, Without Walls asked residents and visitors about the kind of York they wanted to see in the future. This consultation was called the 'Festival of Ideas' and the comments gathered were used to produce York's first ever Vision and Community Strategy. That strategy included a promise that we would review it after three years, and so in Autumn 2007, Without Walls asked residents once again to join in the discussion about York's future through the Festival of Ideas 2. This built on the earlier consultation, but also tried to tackle some of the more difficult new challenges facing the city.

Hundreds of people registered their ideas, raised concerns and asked questions about what York will be like in the future. This leaflet sums up the review findings and explains who will take the lead in making our vision for the future of York a reality.

THE VISION

The vision for York was developed following the extensive consultation through the first Festival of Ideas in 2003 mentioned above. Residents and visitors took part in producing a vision for the future that is still valid four years on.

Our vision is to:

- build confident, creative and inclusive communities
- be a leading environmentally-friendly city
- be at the forefront of innovation and change with a prosperous and thriving economy
- be a world class centre for education and learning for all
- celebrate our historic past whilst creating a successful and thriving future

Many people would agree that the majority of York's residents are relatively well off. Even so, we must plan for the future because there are a number of important challenges facing the city.

We want to make sure that everyone can share in the city's success, especially those living in deprived neighbourhoods or who are disadvantaged in some way. We need to be certain that growth of the city will not spoil York's special qualities and that we reduce our impact on the environment. We have to plan for enough houses that people can afford and we need to improve transport and promote alternatives to car travel.

The following pages explain who will take the lead in making improvements and what you can do to help.

SUSTAINABLEWOW



THE SUSTAINABLE CITY

We aim to reduce our impact on the environment while maintaining York's special qualities and enabling the city and its communities to grow and thrive.

Imagine the area of land that grows the food you eat – then add more for the energy and raw materials you consume, and some more again for trees to absorb the carbon you emit into the atmosphere. That area is your 'ecological footprint'.

It's a term we're going to hear more of. If we add up everyone's footprints the total is greater than the available land surface. So we are living beyond the capacity of the planet. We cannot continue to go on like this and together we need to make changes to live more sustainable lifestyles. This is why we aim to reduce York's collective footprint.

We can all do our bit to help make this aim a reality. By making small changes to live a more sustainable lifestyle we can collectively help to create a more sustainable York for everyone.

The group who will guide progress on this are the York Environment Partnership. They will encourage everyone in York to take responsibility for the impact their actions have on the environment and encourage individuals, organisations and businesses to measure and reduce their carbon and ecological footprints.

BUSINESSWOW



THE THRIVING CITY

We will continue to support York's successful economy to make sure that employment rates remain high and that local people benefit from new job opportunities.

A successful economy is vital to local people and for the future development of the city. There is no doubt that York is in good economic health, but we must continue to strengthen the economy if we want to remain competitive in a global market place. Without Walls partners will continue to work together to improve the city's broad economic structure and employment opportunities for residents. This will include improving learning prospects and the science based and tourism sectors of the economy.

The groups that will work together to guide development of the economy are the Economic Development Partnership and the Business Forum. These partners will concentrate on tackling the most important issues for the economic well-being of the city. They will consider the benefits that York brings to the wider Yorkshire and Humber area and will work with regional partners to make the most of opportunities to team up. They will also work with members of the wider Without Walls network to make sure that growth of the economy benefits everyone and improves the local surroundings.

LEARNINGGWOW



THE LEARNING CITY

We want to make sure that local people have access to world-class education and training facilities and provision. This will help them to develop the skills and aspirations they need to play an active part in society and contribute to the life of the city.

Compared to the national average York's level of unemployment is low and educational achievement, at every age, is high. Although this is clearly a good thing, employers still experience difficulties finding staff with the right skills to fill vacancies. We want to make sure that local people have the right skills for the jobs available now and for those that will be available in the future. In order to continue raising educational achievement and equip people with the right skills, we want to improve the quality and choice of learning and training opportunities for all.

Learning City York is the partnership that will work with a number of different agencies and organisations to try to make sure that local people have the right skills they need. It will work alongside other partnerships to give our children the best start in life through high-quality early years services and childcare, access to high quality education and excellent diverse post-16 opportunities. Partners also aim to increase the achievement of all children and young people, and to raise the appropriate skills levels within the working age population.

CULTUREWOW



THE CITY OF CULTURE

We want to inspire residents and visitors to free their creative talents and make York the most active city in the country. We will achieve this by providing high quality cultural and sporting activities for all.

We want to be seen as an inclusive, lively and active city, with a strong international profile. To do this we will be supporting the creative industries, such as music, craft and film, as well as the provision of festivals in the city and sports opportunities.

We want local people to join in all cultural activities and we will continue to develop the city's cultural environment for the benefit of residents and our four million visitors alike.

York@Large is the city's cultural partnership. Its members work together to communicate what's happening in York as a way of increasing participation. They also encourage investment in the city's attractions and new events in order to support the local economy and to make York a more lively, creative and active city.

SAFETYWOW



THE SAFER CITY

We want York to be a safer city with low crime rates and high opinions of the city's safety record.

Since 2005 crime in York has been reduced by over a third. This includes reductions in crimes such as burglary, which was cut by 58%. Many residents recognise that overall York is a relatively safe city, but there are a number of local concerns that will be targeted over the next three years. These include dealing with anti-social behaviour, alcohol related violence and burglary, so that crime levels come down even further.

The group who will guide progress towards a safer city is the Safer York Partnership (SYP). The vision of the SYP is to make York one of the safest places to be in the country. Members include police, fire and health services, the council, magistrate's courts and the probation service. They work together with education providers, businesses and local voluntary and community groups to reduce crime and the fear of crime.



THE HEALTHY CITY

We want to be a city where residents enjoy long healthy and independent lives. For this to happen we will make sure that people are supported to make healthy lifestyle choices and that health and social care services are quick to respond for those that need them.

The health of the city's population is very good, with life expectancy at birth for children born in York higher than the national average. However, there are a number of issues concerning health where York's performance needs improvement. For instance, some of the more deprived areas of York suffer poorer health than in other areas of the city, and there are high estimates of obesity and low levels of participation in sport or physical activity. We also understand the challenge of an increasing population of older people, and associated increase in the number of people with long term health conditions.

Progress on making York a healthier city is guided by the Healthy City Board, Older People's Partnership Board and YorOK Children's Trust, who work together to promote healthy living and to develop health and social care services. In addition improving the health and well-being of communities across York will also rely on support from the wider Without Walls network. For example, improved health may come about as a result of working with groups dealing with issues like benefit take-up and household energy efficiency.

INCLUSIVE WOV



THE INCLUSIVE CITY

We will do our best to make sure that all citizens feel included in the life of York. We will help improve prospects for all, tackle poverty and exclusion and make services and facilities easy to access.

Some groups of people experience barriers in their everyday lives, for example people with mental ill health or learning difficulties, young people in care and people on low incomes. Groups like these are at risk of being excluded from experiencing benefits that the majority of residents take for granted – benefits such as secure living accommodation and employment prospects and good health and well-being.

The Inclusive York Forum, who guide our progress in this area, was established in 2004 to highlight the needs of the most excluded groups and communities in York and the issues and barriers they face. Forum members work together to try to make sure that all residents and communities share in the city's economic, environmental and social well-being. An important theme for the Forum is to make sure that poverty in the city is minimised and that the gap between rich and poor is narrowed.

FIND OUT MORE

York's Sustainable Community Strategy and action plan will be reviewed every three years, and local people will be invited to join in the process. Without Walls will also regularly report details of progress being made to meet our goals.

For further information about the partnerships and their plans and progress or to find out how to get involved please contact Without Walls on (01904) 552027 or look for details on the website at www.yorkwow.org.uk.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی میا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

☎ (01904) 551550

This leaflet is also available in large print or on cassette tape.

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