



WITHOUT WALLS PARTNERSHIP Minutes

DATE 12 May 2009

VENUE Merchant Taylor's Hall, Aldwark

PRESENT Board Members:

Sir Ron Cooke - Chair
Steve Guest, External Relations Manager – Jobcentre Plus
Chief Superintendent Alison Higgins – North Yorkshire Police
Rachel Johns – Chair, Healthy City Board
Peter Kay – Chair, Economic Development Partnership
Bill McCarthy, Chief Executive - City of York Council
Mike Slater, Chair York Environment Partnership
Colin Stroud, Chief Executive – York Council for Vol. Service
Cllr. Andrew Waller– City of York Council
Gary Williamson – Chief Executive, LYNYYCC
In attendance: Jacqueline Warren, Sustainability Officer
Secretariat: Nigel Burchell, Head of Strategic Partnerships
Roger Ranson, Asst. Director, Econ Devt. & Partnerships
Denise Simms, Senior Partnership Support Officer
Bill Woolley, Director, City Strategy

APOLOGIES:

Liz Burdett – Director, LSC (North Yorkshire)
Brian Cantor, Vice Chancellor - University of York
Pete Dwyer – Director, Learning, Culture and Children CYC
Cllr. Ian Gillies – City of York Council
Janice Murray – Chair, York@Large
Rita Sanderson – Inclusive York Forum Representative
Cllr. David Scott – City of York Council

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Liz Burdett, Brian Cantor, Pete Dwyer, Ian Gillies, Janice Murray, Rita Sanderson and David Scott. Partners welcomed Chief Superintendent Alison Higgins and Steve Guest, External Relations Manager for Jobcentre Plus. Partners also thanked outgoing member, Clare Suddaby for her contributions to the work of the Partnership and wished her well for the future. Janice Murray and Bill McCarthy were also congratulated on their recent job appointments.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2009 were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

Forward meeting plan – Partners were informed that the next meeting had had to be re-scheduled to take place on the 14 July and not 13 July as previously planned.

Action – It was agreed that the next Without Walls Partnership meeting would take place on 14 July at the usual time 4-6pm.

Without Walls Annual Conference – Partners were presented with a brief proposal outlining the suggested format for the Without Walls Conference, which would take place on 24 September. Partners comments on the plans included that:

- There should be a focus on delivery;
- The partnership panel question and answer session worked well at the last conference;
- Make it as interactive as possible;
- Networking time would be good.

Action – it was agreed that the secretariat would continue with arrangements for the annual conference, taking into account partners comments.

Engagement Strategy – Partners had recently received confirmation of the final version of the CYC Engagement Strategy, which had been agreed by the council's Executive on 28 April. The Strategy, summary leaflet and toolkit link would be made available on the Without Walls website. A joint council and Without Walls press release regarding the strategy was planned for 18 May.

Prevent Strategy - In terms of the Prevent discussion that took place at the last meeting, Partners were waiting for comments regarding the type of feedback required from partners on existing practices that would contribute to the Prevent agenda. The neighbourhood management team recommended the following points:

- That partners examine their respective strategies and identify where the actions might support the key elements of the Prevent strategy
- That partners work with the prevent lead in York to discuss how the prevent requirements can be incorporated into the relevant areas of their strategies.

Action – it was agreed that Partners would review strategies and feedback to Safer York Partnership regarding links that could be made with the Prevent Strategy.

3 HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Rachel Johns, Associate Director of Public Health, gave a presentation on health inequalities to advise on the approach being taken to reduce them (Presentation slides attached at Annex A). Partners were also asked to make suggestions on current or future actions for inclusion in a health inequalities progress report being overseen by the Healthy City Board.

Rachel explained that there were many factors that influenced when we die including our genetic make-up, lifestyle choices, education and income. Research had also shown that more unequal societies were likely to have lower health outcomes, even if they were richer, due to the impact of stress. Index of Multiple Deprivation scores showed that 65% of York residents were within the two least deprived quintiles in England. Closer examination of life expectancy at birth for males and females in York highlighted significant differences for males across all quintiles. The Healthy City aim was to ensure that the difference between the most and least deprived did not exceed 34% and in fact the gap was closing.

Partner's comments regarding issues from their area that would impact on the health inequalities agenda included:

- The Credit Union was booming and had expanded to incorporate the whole of North Yorkshire;
- The affordable housing market was depressed due to the current economic climate;
- Access to the natural environment was a key factor for a healthy lifestyle;
- Earnings, knowledge and confidence had a strong impact on health and it was notable that there had been a 100% increase in unemployment benefit claimants in York within the last twelve months;
- It was anticipated that by November a new community safety early intervention scheme would be in place;
- It was important to demonstrate to those living a less healthy lifestyle what impact this would have on their life expectancy;
- The Kingsway West project was a clear example where Partners were trying to address all determinants of ill health;
- Educating parents could sometimes be through their children;
- It was important to know what worked in terms of social marketing and influencing behaviours;
- Excluded groups – it was important to test what they were left out of;
- SYP and HCB focus was on bottom quintile groups – it would be useful to exchange marketing approaches e.g. young as educators.

Action – it was agreed that:

1. Partners would reflect on activities that would reduce health inequalities and give feedback to Rachel Johns;
2. Delivery partnerships would comment on the draft York Health Inequalities Strategy when it was available;
3. The Partnership would receive the final version of the Health Inequalities strategy for comment / endorsement.

4 SUSTAINABLE CITY UPDATE

Mike Slater, Environment Partnership Chair, and Jacqueline Warren, Sustainability Officer, attended to inform the group regarding proposals to restructure the Environment Partnership and to provide an update on the Climate Change Strategy for York (Presentation slides attached at Annex B).

Mike explained that the Environment Partnership restructure was needed to ensure that more effective, delivery focused discussions took place across the broad range of topics that the partnership was responsible for. Consequently, it was proposed that the new structure would incorporate four new working groups that would focus on:

- Climate change;
- Transport;
- Built and historic environment;
- Natural environment and resources.

Additional representatives would also be invited to join the sub-groups to contribute to the delivery of LAA targets and SCS aims.

In terms of the Climate Change Strategy, Jacqueline explained that a small task group of Environment Partnership members had been set up in December 2008 to develop the document and work was still ongoing. Work to date had involved compiling an evidence base, including data which had just been received from DEFRA on the likely impact of climate change on York. In addition, task group members had engaged with each delivery partnership in order to discuss the collective action required to meet targets. The Partnership

had also been successful in their bid to the LAA Delivery Fund to promote behavioural change through a 'Green Streets' campaign.

It was explained that the deadline for producing the Climate Change Strategy had been extended because government guidance / data had been delayed and because the previous timetable had underestimated the time required to develop a York specific approach. It was now anticipated that, following extensive consultation, the strategy would be launched August 2010.

Partners' comments included:

- It would be helpful to communicate practical solutions to assist partners in reducing their carbon emissions and costs;
- A 2 page summary regarding the issues specific to York should be circulated;
- The strategy would incorporate actions relating to two strands, amelioration and adaptation. Plans regarding amelioration needed to be disseminated now as people needed to know the key interventions to take as soon as possible;
- Data relating to the anticipated impact of flooding had only just been released;
- It was important to keep to the process agreed but, as a preliminary part of the strategy, communicate what could be done now.

Action – It was agreed that:

1. Arrangements to restructure the Environment Partnership were noted;
2. Andrew Waller, Ron Cooke, Mike Slater and Jacqueline Warren would meet to discuss actions relating to amelioration that could be taken forward as an initial part of the strategy for immediate implementation, including the things that were already being done.

5 CENTRE FOR CITIES REPORT

Partners had received a copy of the Centre for Cities report 'York: Prioritising Prosperity', which was launched in March. The report focused on unlocking future potential and sustaining economic growth. The main recommendations for success from the report were to deliver the infrastructure needed, particularly focused on York Northwest site, to support growth and to build up the city's science and technology cluster.

Roger reported that, although unemployment had increased within the last twelve months, we had the benefit of a strong strategy, built on good research in the context of the Sub-National review. However, in comparison with other knowledge based economies, York's ranking was lower. Key recommendations included that:

- York should reduce expectations for employment growth in financial and related business services;
- There was a need for a coherent approach to entrepreneurship;
- Intensive support was needed to develop Science City York in partnership with the University of York;
- York needed to better understand its role within the region.

Comments from Partners included:

- In terms of the York Northwest site, there was tacit acceptance as a concept that it would deliver economic development and housing needs for the future;
- The report contained very clear recommendations that should be welcomed;
- An Entrepreneurship Strategy for the city was also welcomed;
- Reliance on delivery of York Northwest was a high risk strategy;
- Assertions regarding growth of the science and technology sector should be challenged;

- Partners should receive clarity on where York stands in relation to the Leeds City Region or North Yorkshire and this could be different for different sectors;
- York could have more in common with Bath, Norwich and Chester and our interests may be more easily understood by them.
- Multiple alliances should be created;
- There should be alternatives to York Northwest;
- The Local Development Framework was about flexibility to enable us to realise our aspirations;
- York needed to be able to cater for organic growth when existing businesses wanted to grow;
- Growth and skills required were important too.

Action – it was agreed that Roger Ranson would meet with delivery partnerships should they want to discuss the Centre for Cities work further.

6 LAA DELIVERY FUND

Partners received a report regarding the outcome of the LAA Delivery Fund process. Sixteen projects had been selected to progress, totalling £611,697. A small amount of delivery funding was held back for appeals, should they arise. However if these were not forthcoming a further £50k would be allocated to the first of two reserve schemes. Panel members were thanked for the hard work that went into ensuring recommendations were robust.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Partners had received information regarding the Migration Impact Fund, which had recently been set up to promote innovative ways of managing the pressures of migration. The total amount of funding available for Yorkshire and Humber for 2009/10 was £3 million.

Without Walls had been approached to support two bids to the fund for:

- Regional Migrant Advice Service – provided by Northern Refugee Centre in partnership with CAB (North Yorkshire);
- Migrant Advocate and Interpreting Facility – coordinated by West Yorkshire Police.

Partners comments included:

- York CAB knew nothing about the Migrant Advice Service bid and CAB North Yorkshire did not include York.
- There would need to be reassurance that the service incorporated York.

Action - It was agreed that the two Migration Impact Fund bids would be supported in principle, however Partners would want the secretariat to follow up on what this meant for York specifically.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:15pm

Date of next meetings:

Without Walls Partnership

14 July – 4-6pm

24 September – Annual Conference 2-5pm

23 November – 4-6pm

Executive Delivery Board

15 June - 2-4pm

Without Walls Partnership

Minutes

DATE 12 May 2009

Summary Table of Actions

No.	Action	Lead
1	The next Without Walls Partnership meeting would take place on 14 July at the usual time 4-6pm.	All to note
2	The secretariat would continue with arrangements for the annual conference, taking into account partners comments.	SPT
3	That Partners would review strategies and feedback to Safer York Partnership regarding links that could be made with the Prevent Strategy.	All
4	Partners would reflect on activities that would reduce health inequalities and give feedback to Rachel Johns	All
5	Delivery partnerships would comment on the draft York Health Inequalities Strategy when it was available	Partnership Chairs
6	The Partnership would receive the final version of the Health Inequalities strategy for comment / endorsement.	All
7	Arrangements to restructure the Environment Partnership were noted	All to note
8	Andrew Waller, Ron Cooke, Mike Slater and Jacqueline Warren would meet to discuss actions relating to amelioration that could be taken forward as an initial part of the strategy for immediate implementation, including the things that were already being done.	AW / RUC / MS / JW
9	Roger Ranson would meet with delivery partnerships if they wanted to discuss the Centre for Cities work further.	RR
10	The two Migration Impact Fund bids would be supported in principle, however Partners would want the secretariat to follow up on what this meant for York specifically.	SPT

Health Inequalities Progress & Action

Rachel Johns

Chair, Healthy City Board
Associate Director of Public Health.
NHS North Yorkshire & York and City of York Council

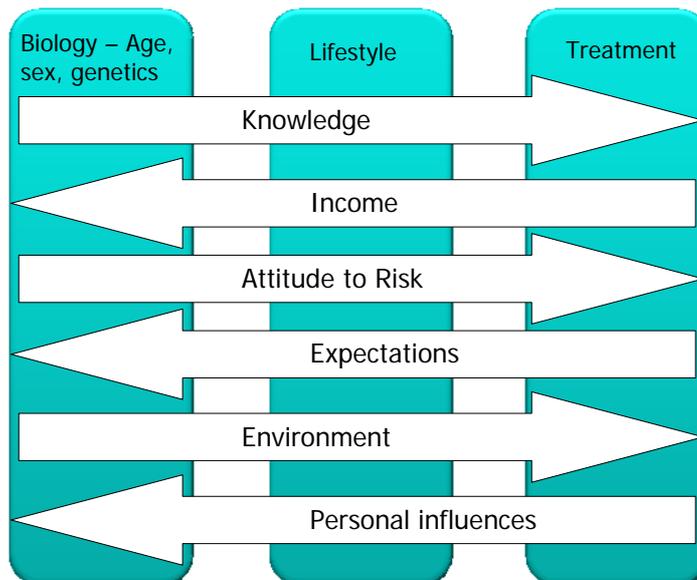
The WOW Board are asked to:

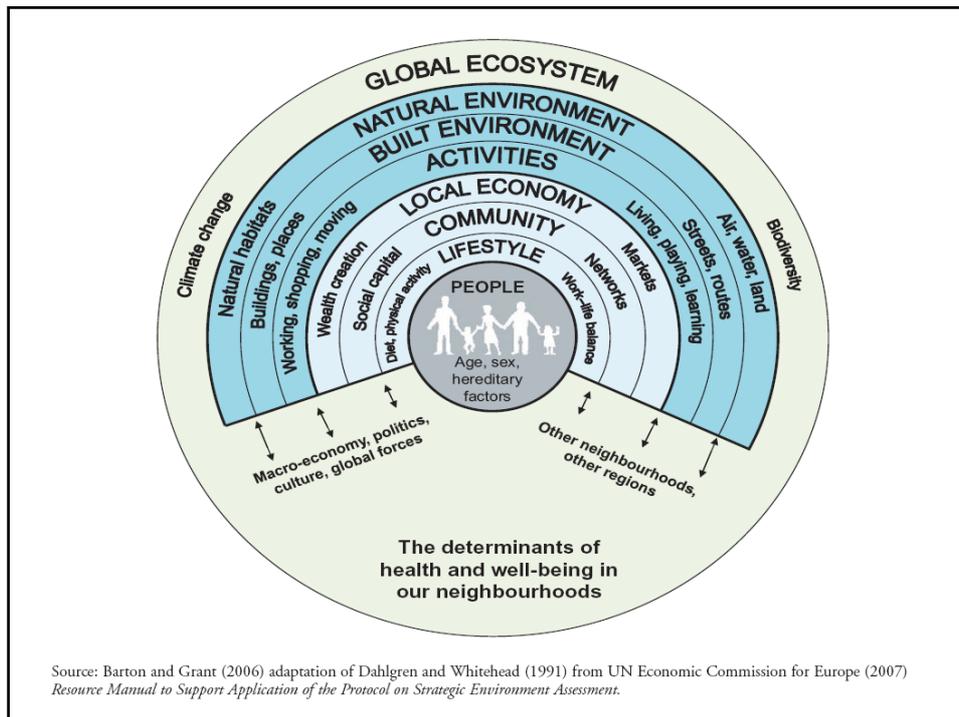
- Advise on the approach to reducing health inequalities in York
- Suggest additional current and future actions to be included in the York Health Inequalities Report
- Advise whether the report should be formally considered by constituent partnerships.

Why do we die?

- Circulatory Disease
- Cancers
- Respiratory Disease
- Digestive Disorders
- External Causes

What influences when we die?





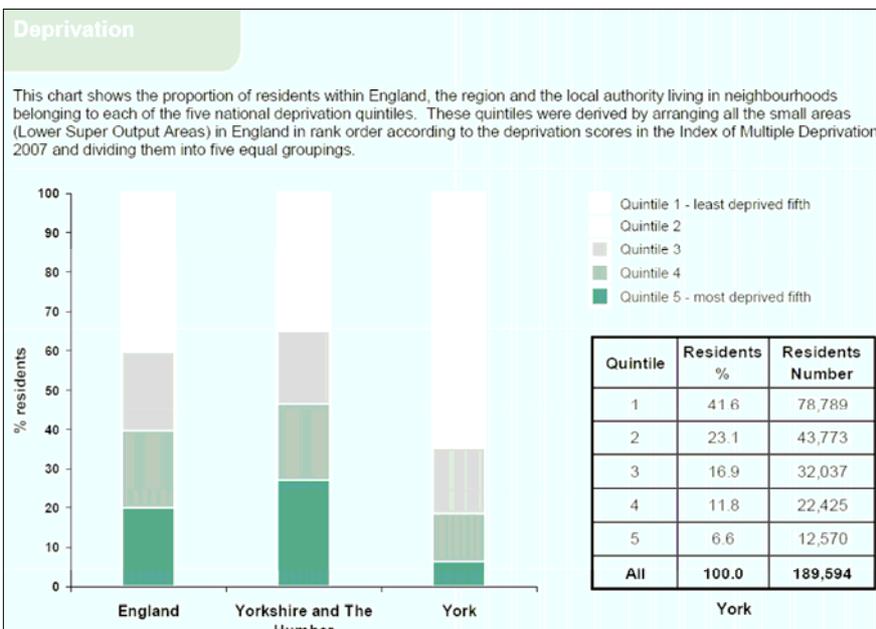
The impact of inequalities

- Impact on the individual
- Impact on their dependents
- Impact on population in general

Impact on Population

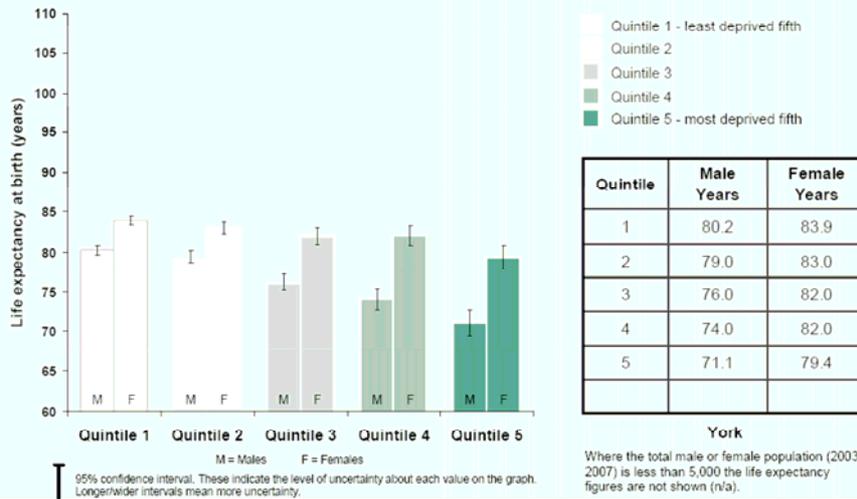
'In a more unequal society, even middle class people on good incomes are likely to be less healthy, less likely to be involved in community life, more likely to be obese and more likely to be victims of violence. Their children are likely to do less well at school, more likely to use drugs and more likely to become teenage parents'.

(Prof Richard Wilkinson. What difference does inequality make?)



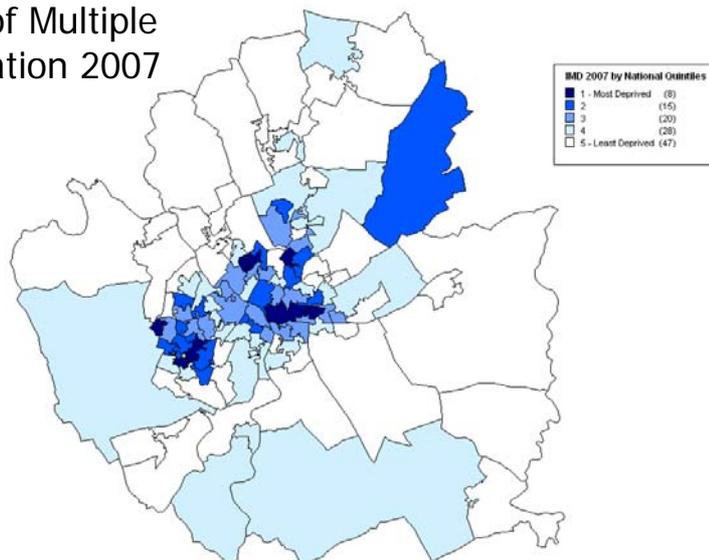
Health inequalities: life expectancy

This chart shows the life expectancy at birth for males and females (2003-2007) within the local authority by national deprivation quintiles.

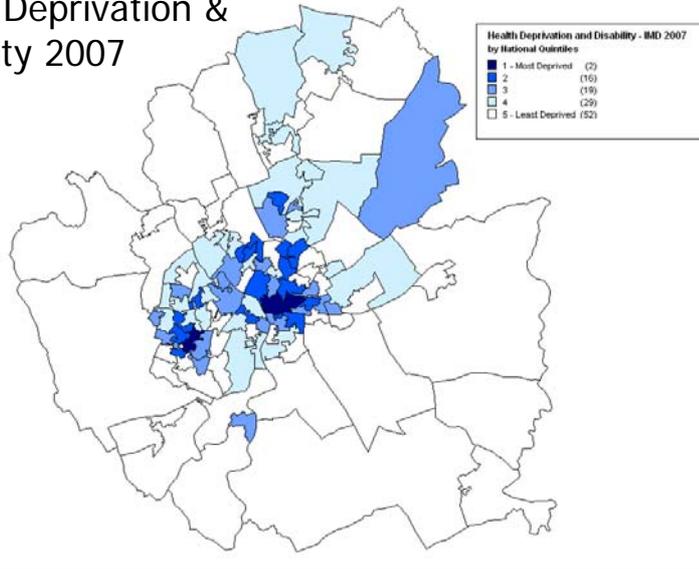


Source APHO

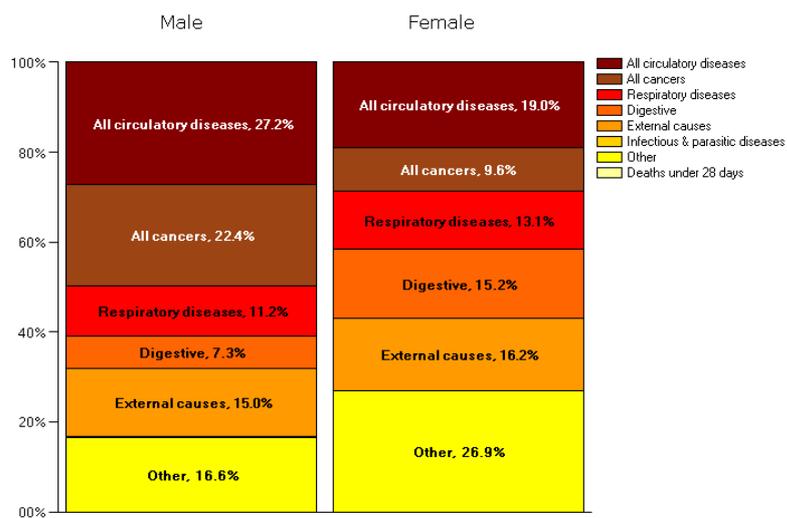
Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007



Health Deprivation & Disability 2007



Breakdown of life expectancy gap between the Most Deprived Quintile (MDQ) of York UA and the average for the four other quintiles in the local authority by cause of death



Source LPHO

Sustainable Community Strategy

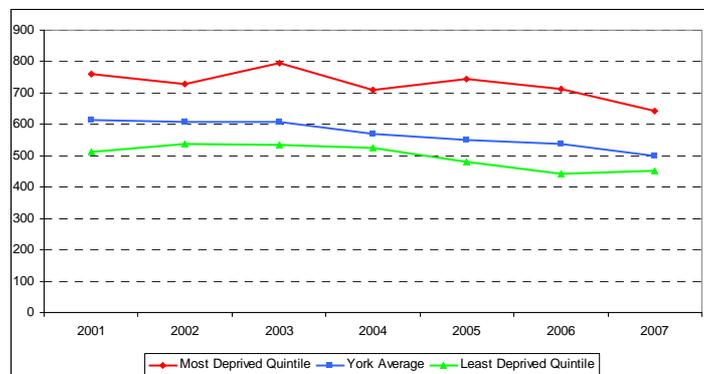
Our commitments

Healthy City

To identify and address inequalities in health outcomes and in the determinants of health.

Success measure

- Reduce health inequalities within the local area, by narrowing the gap in all-age, all-cause mortality



Inclusive City

Ensure that as many residents as possible can share in the city's economic, environmental and social well being, especially those living in deprived neighbourhoods or who are in other ways disadvantaged.

- Anti-Poverty Strategy; Credit Union
- Affordable housing.
- Focus on most deprived neighbourhoods.
- Respond positively to the changing black and minority ethnic (BME) population in the city.
- Protect vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse
- Tackle harassment and discrimination
- Encourage and nurture the potential and energy of children and young people;
- Value experience and knowledge of older people.
- Improve access to services, information and facilities for residents, neighbourhoods, and those at most risk of exclusion.

Sustainable City

- To promote local access to the natural environment for physical activity, health and the wellbeing of all communities.

Thriving City

- To enable local people, including those with disabilities, to benefit from the new job opportunities and increased income levels from increased economic prosperity, with a focus on minimising income differentials in the City.
- To address the issue of economic inclusion and worklessness so that as many residents and employees as possible can benefit from new economic opportunities.

Learning City

- Develop Children's Centres
- Focus on narrowing the gap in attainment for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of learners
- To raise the skills levels in the working age population focusing on particular disadvantaged communities and wards.
- Enhance the accessibility and quality of information, advice and guidance about learning and work ensuring that those facing additional barriers have access to appropriate opportunities, support and advice.

City of Culture

- To be a diverse, inclusive and cosmopolitan city
- As a city of faiths York will be a city where people of many faiths and ethnic backgrounds can feel at home
- Our broad cultural offer will be for all people who live here and there will be full access for people with disabilities
- Young people will be welcome, visible and prominent in the city. The perception that there is not enough provision for them will be addressed

Safer City

- To identify and facilitate early intervention with those young people and young adults who are most at risk of offending or engaging in anti-social behaviour
- To reduce drug and alcohol misuse in the city
- To overcome barriers of community cohesion and ensure that no-one is excluded
- To work with partners to ensure all sectors of the community are involved in community consultation and problem solving
- Work with the voluntary sector to strengthen and develop the participation of traditionally "hard to reach" groups in community watch schemes

Wider Determinants – Examples of Progress

- **Housing** – Action on affordable warmth
- **Education** - Improvement in the percentage of children with a special educational need achieving expected level.
- **Employment** – Support for businesses and individuals
- **Physical Environment** – LDF, Transport Plan
- **Community Safety** – Domestic Violence, Drug & Alcohol services

Communities at Risk of Deprivation

- Anti-poverty Strategy
- North Yorkshire wide credit union now established
- Tang Hall Health Needs Assessment
- Westfield Project
- Altogether Better - York: Community based health education project funded by the BIG Lottery Fund until June 2011.



Groups at Risk of Exclusion

- Children
- Older People
- People from BME Groups
- Travellers
- People with Learning Disabilities
- People with mental health problems

Groups at Risk of Exclusion

- Teenage Parents
- Young People who are NEET
- Prisoners and ex-prisoners
- Rough Sleepers
- People with drug and alcohol problems

The WOW Board are asked to:

- Advise on the approach to reducing health inequalities in York
- Suggest additional current and future actions to be included in the York Health Inequalities Report
- Advise whether the report should be formally considered by constituent partnerships.



Environment Partnership Sustainable City: Update

Jacqui Warren and Mike Slater

To consider :

1. Restructure of the Environment Partnership
2. Update on the climate change strategy and action plan for York

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Environment Partnership Proposed restructure:

Background

2009 Chair's review highlighted the need:

1. Not enough delivery focus
2. Wide range of LAA/SCS indicators, topics and discussions at meetings were not always appropriate for all EP partners and not easily achievable through existing EP structure and partners.

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Environment Partnership Proposed restructure

Background

LAA indicators and SCS:Sustainable City:

NI 167 – Congestion average journey time p/mile morning peak

NI 186 – Per capita CO₂ in the LA area

NI 191 – Residual household waste per household

NI 197 – Improved local biodiversity

NI 188 – Adapting to climate change

BVPI 219b - Conservation area appraisals undertaken

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Environment Partnership Proposed restructure

The Proposed new structure

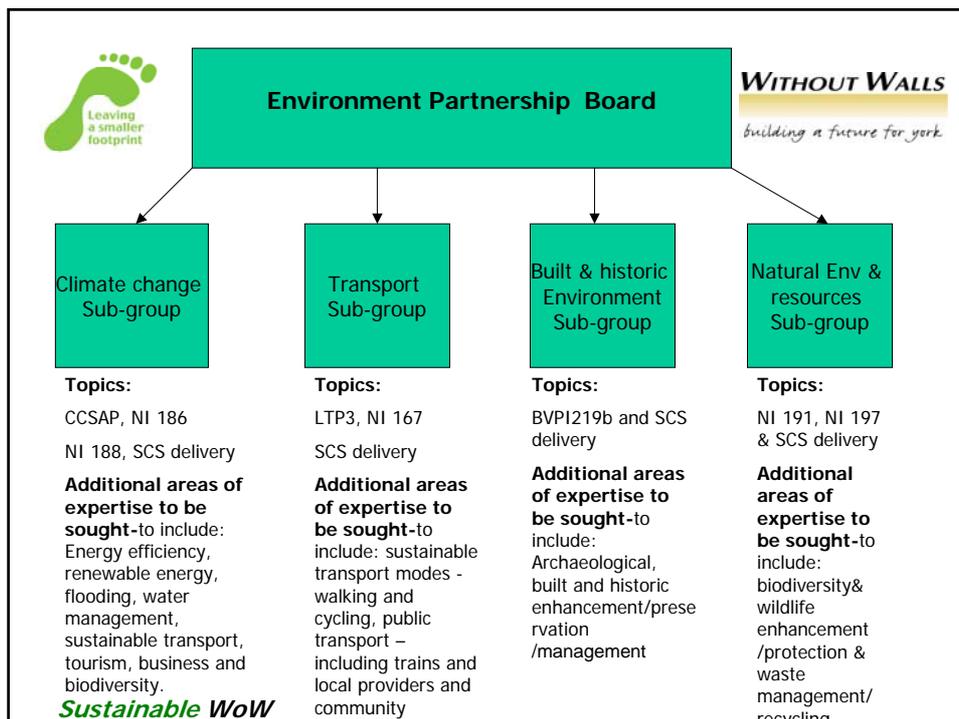
The Environment Partnership to have 4 delivery focussed sub-groups:

1. Climate Change
2. Transport
3. Built and historic Environment
4. Natural environment and resources

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Environment Partnership Proposed restructure

Benefits of the restructure:

1. Focussed approach to addressing all LAA targets in a manageable and more appropriate and effective way
2. Environment Partnership Board can maintain a strategic level of working
3. Specific themed groups will address complex issues of the LAA/SCS that currently pre-occupy the EP.

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Environment Partnership Proposed restructure

Benefits of the restructure:

4. Additional partners to contribute to the delivery of LAA targets / SCS
5. Additional CYC staff involvement to reduce the time and resource pressures currently experienced by existing CYC staff on the Environment Partnership Board.

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Environment Partnership Proposed restructure

Summary:

The proposal outlines a manageable option that will create 4 sub-groups to deliver: climate change, sustainable transport, built and natural environment/resource objectives of The SCS. It will also ensure the Environment Partnership has enough delivery partners to deliver all appropriate LAA targets

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Environment Partnership Climate Change Update

Climate change strategy and action plan:

- The climate change strategy and action plan, and the details of how it was to be developed were provided and agreed by the Without Walls Board on 21st November 2007 (see handout).

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Environment Partnership Climate Change

Climate change strategy and action plan:

- LSP approach.
- Small task group from the EP set up to complete the strategy by December 2008.
- Work is still ongoing to date.

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Environment Partnership Climate Change

Climate change strategy and action plan:

Key actions taken to date:

- Compiled data for evidence base;
- WoW Partnership engagement & follow up actions; and
- CYC coordinated approach.

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Environment Partnership Climate Change

Climate change strategy and action plan:

Key actions taken to date:

- Bid for LAA delivery money to create a comprehensive city wide engagement campaign; and
- Bid for LAA money to create a green streets campaign to support the strategy and communications.

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Environment Partnership Climate Change

Climate change strategy and action plan:

Current issues:

- Resources
- NI188 guidance
- Regional strategy and adaptation plans delayed

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Environment Partnership Climate Change

Climate change strategy and action plan:

Revised plan:

- July – October 2009 - Create a climate change focussed sub group of the EP;
- Compile WoW Partnerships actions; and
- Compile CYC and other Partners actions.
- October – April 2010 - Hold a series of workshops to create action plan

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Environment Partnership Climate Change

Climate change strategy and action plan:

Revised plan (TBC):

- April 2010 Collate and compile a draft for consultation.
- June – July 2010 consultation and events.
- August 2010 onwards - formally launch.

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Environment Partnership Climate Change

Climate change strategy and action plan:

Key actions for the WoW Board :

- Feed back / create a list by October 2009 of initial simple steps/ actions each Board will sign up to carry out. (Contact JW for refresh or additional presentation).
- Attend and support the new subgroup & specific workshops that will feed into the strategy's action plans.

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Environment Partnership Sustainable City Update

WoW Board Discussions?

1. EP's Restructure
2. Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

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York

Prioritising prosperity

Roger Ranson
Economic Development and Partnerships



Report issues

- **UK Recession:** GDP expected to contract by 3 percent in 2009, unemployment to exceed 3 million
- **'Thriving city':** how can York deliver on its Sustainable Community Strategy
- **Future York Group Report:** building on research already undertaken
- **SNR:** evolving policy context will impact on economic development



Key recommendations



- How skills and entrepreneurship can support the growth of higher value jobs in York?
- How York can improve the performance of its science and technology cluster?
- How the Council can benefit from the Leeds city-region?



Key report themes



- **York needs to focus its efforts**
- **Two key priorities for success:**
 - Delivering York Northwest
 - Supporting the growth of the science and technology cluster



Has York overestimated its economic strength?

centreforcities 

	York	Cambridge	Brighton
Economic Prosperity Index (/64)	21 st	5 th	12 th
Social Deprivation Index (/64)	5 th	4 th	23 rd
Built Environment Index (/64)	13 th	2 nd	8 th

*First place in the ranking is an indicator of strength i.e. the strongest economy, the least socially deprived and the most prosperous built environment

Source: Centre for Cities – Cities Outlook 2009



Impact of the recession in York

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- Based on a 2 percent fall in UK GDP in 2009 (November 2008 forecast)
- Output in York to contract by 1.3 percent
- 2,800 jobs lost over 2008/09
- Equivalent to 2.6 percent of the 2008 workforce



Can't rely on financial services growth

centreforcities 

- Financial services contributes 6.6 percent of York's employment, 4.0 percent nationally
- Jobs concentrated in Norwich Union and CPP
- Recession casts doubts over sectors future
- Other competitive cities in Leeds city-region

Recommendation

- York should reduce expectations for employment growth in financial and related business services



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Higher skills and entrepreneurship



Need for coherent approach to entrepreneurship



City	VAT Stock per 10,000 working age Population (2007)	% in employment who are self employed - working age (June 2008)	% of residents employed in top three Standard Occupational Classifications (June 2008)
York	434	11.0	41
Leeds	420	8.9	40
Huddersfield	467	11.4	38
Brighton	567	15.3	51
Bristol	475	12.6	45
Cambridge	476	15.3	61
Yorkshire and Humber	454	8.1	38
Great Britain	538	12.6	43

Source: Nomis - VAT Registrations & Stocks, 2009; Annual Population Survey, 2009



Recommendations



- Greater coordination between the enterprise activities taking place in York
- Entrepreneurship is an important area to add value in higher skills
- Economic Development Partnership to bring together entrepreneurship strategy
- Prioritise resources and look at areas where overlaps in skills provision exist



Entrepreneurship strategy for the future

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- Integrating entrepreneurship across the educational spectrum
- Young entrepreneur award scheme in FE colleges
- Mentoring brokerage system
- 'Entrepreneurship champions'
- Flexible entrepreneurship skills programmes
- Entrepreneurship modules for PHD students



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Science and technology cluster



Strengths

- Leading university nationally, **Guardian: 8th**
- Specialist areas of expertise, e.g. **plant biology**
- Established cluster support, **Science City York (10 years)**
- Growth potential, **5% per annum?**

Weaknesses

- Size of University, **15,000 students following expansion**
- Limited jobs created so far, **2,800 jobs**
- Small number of spinouts, **9 between 2001/06**
- Misalignment of businesses and expertise, **70 % more businesses in IT network**



Recommendations

- New performance metrics for Science City York
- Use funding incentives, e.g. size of the sector
- Inward investment branding to support SCY
- Attract a large research company
- Encourage White Rose Partnership to undertake knowledge transfer collaboration
- University of York to target up-and-coming 'linking academics'

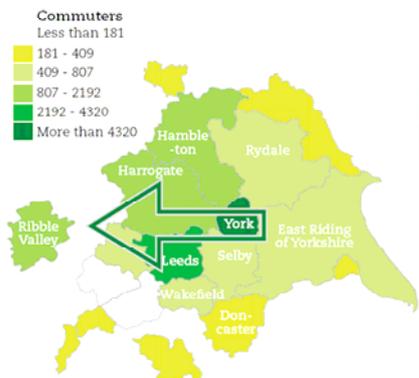


York and the Leeds city-region

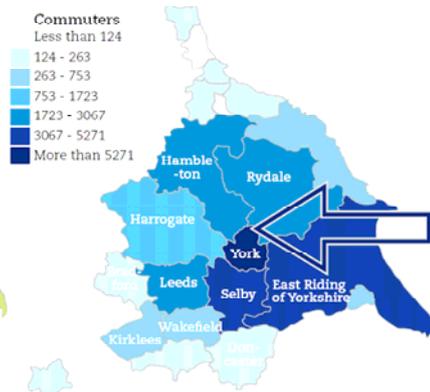


Labour market to the East

Outward



Inward



Source: Annual Population Survey, 2008



Recommendations

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- York should be selective in its areas of involvement
- York should utilize the MAA to enhance its skills offer
- Support a city-regional Employment and Skills Board and greater flexibility over HEFCE funding
- At this time York should take less of a role in transport discussions
- York needs to consider its economic links to the East which makes up the largest proportion of inward commuters



York Economic Partnership

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- Science and technology focus – need to address through Science City York business plan
- Skills and enterprise – need for joint working between the Economic Partnership and Learning City Partnership
- York in a wider context – need to understand significance of Leeds City Region forerunner status

