



## WITHOUT WALLS PARTNERSHIP Minutes

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**DATE** 19 December 2012

**VENUE** Marriott Room, York Explore, Library Square

**PRESENT Board Members:**

Cllr. James Alexander – City of York Council - Chair  
Sir Ron Cooke – Vice Chair  
Len Cruddas – Chief Executive, LYNCC  
Pete Dwyer – Chair, Learning City York  
Kersten England, Chief Executive, CYC  
Cllr. Ian Gillies – City of York Council  
Fred Ring – York Racial Equality Network  
Rita Sanderson – Inclusive York Forum Representative  
Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing, Chair Shadow H & WB Board  
Mike Slater, Chair York Environment Partnership  
Temporary Chief Constable Tim Madgwick- North Yorks. Police  
Colin Mellors, University of York & Higher York  
Angela Portz, Chief Exec. – York Council for Vol. Service  
Cllr Carol Runciman – City of York Council  
Dianne Willcocks – Chair, York@Large  
Lisa Winward - Safer Neighbourhood Commander

**In attendance:**

Martin Grainger – Head of Integrated Strategy, CYC  
John Kennedy – Director of Care Services, JRF  
Catherine McGovern – Commissioning Manager  
Oliver Harmar – Flood Risk Team Leader, Environment Agency

**Secretariat:**

Stewart Halliday – Head of Strategy, Partnerships and Comms  
Denise Simms, Strategy, Partnerships & Planning Officer

**APOLOGIES:**

Brian Cantor, Vice Chancellor - University of York  
Jill Gibson, External Relations Manager – Jobcentre Plus  
Nigel Hutchinson- Chief Fire Officer, North Yorks Fire Service  
Peter Kay – Chair, Economic Development Partnership  
Sue Metcalfe – Chair, YorOK

## 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Oliver Harmar was welcomed from the Environment Agency. Apologies were received from Brian Cantor, Jill Gibson, Nigel Hutchinson, Peter Kay and Sue Metcalfe.

## 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2012 were agreed.

### MATTERS ARISING

Review of recent Flood response – Partners' views regarding service response and recovery following the recent flooding incidents were invited. Cllr Alexander reported that Richard Benyon, Environment Minister, had recently visited the city and had been supportive of the Water End Scheme. Cllr Alexander thanked Partners that had been involved in the Ministerial visit.

Oliver Harmar, Flood Risk Team Leader from the Environment Agency, said that there had been multi-agency de-briefs since the October and November floods and a series of public meetings were also taking place to gather views on what had worked well and learning points. A Strategic Partnership, chaired by Cllr Merrett, was in the process of agreeing investment priorities for North Yorkshire and York for the next 5 years. Priorities would be informed by the recent flood events and other known risks. This information would be fed in to the Government's Investment Fund planning over the next 6 months.

Comments from Partners regarding the floods included:

- Following the October flood, CYC had improved communications to residents regarding bin collections etc. and they were also investing in new flood pumps to replace old equipment in some areas.
- Concern was raised regarding reliance on military resources for support in flood situations and the need to build in resilience for the future, should assistance from the army be unavailable.
- It was important to assess which officers would be on call over the Christmas period, as heavy rain was forecast.
- National media stories regarding the floods were bad for business and communications plans should be developed to highlight that York was open for business as normal.
- Plans were being developed to use live stream CCTV footage of Coney Street and Parliament Street on the Visit York and Council websites to show that shops were operating normally.
- Concern was expressed regarding the capacity of fire crews to cover the North Yorkshire area if many flood alerts were in operation across the county.

- There was a need to ensure that bigger picture issues regarding sustainability and social justice were considered.
- Diversion of bus routes through housing estates, following road closures, made it difficult for drivers.
- The city should aspire to developing a comprehensive integrated flood plan.
- There needed to be better communication regarding which areas of the city were accessible during floods, for example Fulford traders had lost out as perception was that the whole area was flooded.

The Chair closed discussion on the item by passing on the thanks of the Partnership to all of the services that had been involved in the recent floods.

### **3 DEMENTIA WITHOUT WALLS**

Partners had received a background briefing paper regarding the Dementia Without Walls initiative and plans to create a dementia-friendly city.

John Kennedy explained that a high proportion of JRF's customers had dementia and discussions had initially started with the Retreat regarding potential Care Home facilities. Over the next thirty years, the prevalence of dementia was set to double and key messages that had arisen following consultation included:

- Dementia concerned everyone;
- Dementia sufferers could live well and be supported at home with the condition;
- This was not just a health and social; care issue – it encompassed leisure opportunities, transport, etc.
- Everyone could contribute to the design of a dementia friendly city.

A Steering Group had been formed, which was due to meet towards the end of January and Partner organisations were invited to take part. There was a need to keep the conversation and ideas flowing in order to develop initiatives to support citizens in York (and Bradford). The Genius innovation project had recently selected a competition winner to raise awareness regarding dementia in schools. JRHT were also unpicking what it meant to be a dementia friendly employer and overseeing a broader programme in relation to the challenge nationally.

Comments following the presentation included:

- Education was important as dementia was not always easy to identify;
- Ageing was often seen as a 'problem' however it was a known entity and a growing market, so opportunities should be sought;
- The N8 university forum had discussed ageing and had concluded that designing for old age was essential, however, encouraging behavioural change was more important. Older people needed to be valued and respected;
- This was a challenge that faced everyone, there was also a risk in leaving things to individual experience as judgements may have been coloured by their own personal experiences of dementia;
- If York was serious about being a dementia friendly city this needed to be communicated, even if it began as 'work in progress';
- There was resistance to look at this initiative in some areas as it was seen as not vibrant and lively enough for York;
- It would be important to see what lessons could be learned from Bradford in terms of ethnic groups;
- Awareness raising sessions led by elders would be very powerful;
- Daily living activities become challenging for people with dementia therefore it was important to organise the city to enable these tasks by good design;
- Society is ageing – chronologically things are shifting so if we only looked at older people we would do ourselves a disservice;
- Dementia friendly employers – there was a need to be realistic regarding expectations depending on the size of the employer;
- The Health and Wellbeing Board had reported concern over end of life care and the inappropriate number of dementia sufferers that were being hospitalised. Review of this practice needed to connect in to this agenda;
- A well made training video featuring dementia sufferers would be powerful and easy to disseminate to employees;
- The Dementia Alliance were calling for action pledges and the JRF website had a comprehensive section on ageing which would be useful to use as background reading.

**Action** – It was agreed that Partners would consider their organisation in light of the dementia discussion, talk to others and ask colleagues to contribute. In addition, they would consider joining the Steering Group and discuss ideas with Dementia Forward. An E-learning package was also available as a prompt to debate. Partners were asked to contact Jill Quinn if they wanted to discuss their ideas / further participation. Jill Quinn (CEO) Email: [jill@dementiaforward.org.uk](mailto:jill@dementiaforward.org.uk) 01765 645904 [www.dementiaforward.org.uk](http://www.dementiaforward.org.uk) .

#### 4 LOCAL PLAN – FEEDBACK FROM VISION CONSULTATION

Martin Grainger, Head of Integrated Strategy gave a presentation regarding the outcome of recent consultation events to refresh the planning vision for the city. Workshops were based on creating jobs and growing the economy, protecting the built and natural environment, getting York moving, and building strong communities. Comments collected at the events included:

##### Create jobs and Grow the economy -

- York had a sub-regional, city region and national role to play;
- The city should concentrate on niche sectors and the planning process should facilitate this;
- The importance of taking a joined up approach in providing jobs, housing and social facilities was stressed;
- The city centre was important as a marketing tool;
- The rural economy should not be forgotten;
- Infrastructure required to support growth.

##### Protect the Built and Natural Environment -

- The approaches taken via the previous LDF to e.g. protection of views, should be retained;
- Importance of the green wedges and river corridors were highlighted and also that there should be more proactive management of these areas and the positives they bring;
- Maintenance of the vitality of the city centre and quality of design were referred to;
- The role of the green belt was recognised;

##### Get York Moving -

- Bus networks – the planning process should be used to ensure that the network worked more efficiently and effectively;
- Park and ride facilities could be used more effectively as hubs for service provision e.g. bike hire, nurseries etc.
- The importance of travel plans, cycling and the station as a gateway to the city were also highlighted.

##### Strong Communities -

- It was important to ensure an appropriate supply of housing to meet the populations needs;
- It was important to look at the draft greenbelt alongside community sites in order to meet need;
- Planning gain should not compromise development;

Planning officers had concluded that the key drivers were:

- Promoting economic growth to allow York to reach its potential
- Meeting housing need of current and future residents
- Providing viable and deliverable sites.

Spatial constraints were cited as:

- Protecting York's historic character and setting
- Protecting York's green infrastructure
- Minimising flood risk.

It was confirmed that the next steps in the process would be to consult on preferred options by May 2013, with a view to adoption of the agreed scheme by December 2014.

Comments from Partners regarding the update included:

- Some sites, currently designated for employment land, may be moved to better meet need;
- Attempts to micro manage the economy using this process would not work. Instead it was important to ensure that infrastructure was put in the right places and exploited. Future skill requirements were related as it would be important to plan ahead and map infrastructure needs relating to training requirements.
- Hard choices would have to be made, as trying to keep everyone happy was not possible;
- Finding the right balance between prescription and future flexibility would be difficult;
- It would take two years to adopt the plan, but things could be done now to prepare;
- It would be important to engage the whole city regarding the plan, rather than just the usual suspects;
- It was important to get the plan approved so it was crucial to get it right;
- Plans in themselves were not powerful, they just needed to create the pre-conditions for change to happen;
- A prime objective for growth was organic growth of existing businesses;
- Tourism – quality was paramount;
- There needed to be less silo based working in order to facilitate good transport networks.

**Action** – It was agreed that Partners' comments would be reported to the City Development Team.

## 5 PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

This agenda item was dropped, since time for discussion was tight, however three quick updates included:

- York Economic Partnership - Peter Kay had finished his term of office as Chair of the Economic Partnership. Stirling Kimkeran would take over and replace him on the Without Walls Board.
- Inclusive York Board – The Board were aware of possible proposals to align IYB within the structure of the Health and Wellbeing Board and discussions on that continued. However, IYB's responsibility in terms of City Plan Deliverables remained the same and it was important to ensure these were taken into account, along with implementation of the recommendations of the Fairness Commission.
- York@Large – A new Chair had been elected to take over from June 2013. It was important to celebrate the cultural activities that had taken place in 2012 and to show appreciation to the community groups and CYC team that had made the events such a success.

**Action** – It was agreed that:

1. The WOW Chair would write to thank Peter Kay for his service to the Board;
2. The Secretariat would make appropriate induction arrangements for Stirling Kimkeran.

## 6 WOW RESPONSE TO NEW ACCESS TO INFORMATION LEGISLATION

Partners had received updated terms of reference, which brought together governing documents for each of the delivery partnerships and suggested how partnership information would be made available in future. This included that:

- Agenda and papers would be made available on the Without Walls website at least 7 days before meetings were due to take place;
- Minutes would be published on the Without Walls website within 10 working days of meetings taking place;
- Across the partnership structure, meetings would always take place in public with responsibility given to the Chair to manage public participation;
- Arrangements for deputising had been formalised;
- Election of Chairs would follow a standard partnership procedure and unless a statutory role, the post would be subject to advert and selection.

A diagram that gave the current scale of the partnership had been included. The Health and Wellbeing Board was now established and sub-groups were being developed that will lead to further rationalisation of the WOW Structure. It had already been agreed that YorOK and IYB would transition to become sub-groups of the H & WB Board. A further paper would be brought in three months time with further refinements to the structure.

Comments from Partners included:

- A key change was the emphasis on communication up and down and especially to other Councillors;
- Concern was expressed about the use of Deputies, however the amendment was agreed on the proviso that they would only be used in exceptional circumstances;
- The Health and Wellbeing Board was a statutory Committee of the council and therefore the role of Chair would never be publicly advertised;
- It was important not to de-value the work of partnerships if they were made to feed through sub-groups;
- The terms of reference all needed to have a common framework
- Future WOW agenda items should look to incorporate discussion regarding shared resources / facilities / services;
- It was important to assess the strategic outcome of WOW meetings going forward;
- The Partnership brought different perspectives together and was a place for reflection and to plan action.

**Action** – It was agreed that the Secretariat would develop a common framework for Partnership Terms of Reference, go through and align each ToR and put the revised versions back to each partnership for ratification.

## **7 POLICY UPDATE**

Partners had received for information a briefing that reviewed recent national policy and highlighted key issues for the forthcoming year.

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- It had previously been agreed that the Partnership would attempt to harness the potential of influential people who live in the region and could champion York's cause.
- It was reported that York would host the second stage of the Tour de France in 2014 and this would require Partners to once again bring resources together to ensure the event was a success.

**Action** – It was agreed that the Secretariat would report back to the next meeting regarding plans to harness the potential of influential key stakeholders living in the area.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 18:00pm.

**Date of Next Meetings – To take place 4-6pm**

- 27 March 2013
- 26 June 2013