



WITHOUT WALLS PARTNERSHIP Minutes

DATE 26 June 2013

VENUE The Snow Room, West Offices, Station Rise

PRESENT Board Members:

Sir Ron Cooke – Chair
Phillip Cain – Safer York
Kersten England, Chief Executive, CYC
Cllr. Ian Gillies – City of York Council
Kevin Hall - Interim Director of Adults, Children & Education, CYC
Nigel Hutchinson- Chief Fire Officer, North Yorks Fire Service
Chief Constable Dave Jones- North Yorks. Police
Colin Mellors, University of York & Higher York
Fred Ring – York Racial Equality Network
Rita Sanderson – Inclusive York Forum Representative
Mike Slater, Chair York Environment Partnership
Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing, Chair Shadow H & WB Board
Catherine Surtees – York CVS
Dianne Willcocks, Incoming Chair Fairness & Equalities Board
Cllr Ann Reid

In attendance:

Chris Cullwick – York Community Chaplaincy
Paul Edmondson-Jones – Director of Public Health, CYC
Chris Goulden – Head of Poverty Policy team, JRF
Darren Richardson – Director City & Environmental Services

Secretariat:

Rhiân Davies – Policy Officer
Stewart Halliday – Head of Strategy, Partnerships and Comms
Phil Witcherley – Head of Policy

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. James Alexander – City of York Council –Chair
Cllr. Keith Aspden – City of York Council
Brian Cantor, Vice Chancellor - University of York

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Ron Cooke chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr James Alexander.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2012 were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

In terms of matters arising:

- Gary Jones will in future represent York CVS. The Board expressed their thanks to Angela Portz for her previous work and support.
- The low number of applications to the York Disaster Fund for homes damaged by floods was raised. A reminder that this is still available was requested. More information is available from Gary Jones at CVS or at http://www.york.gov.uk/press/article/62/help_for_residents_and_businesses_affected_by_flooding
- A further flood meeting is planned later in the year. Flood defence spending was maintained in the Spending Review.
- The York Dementia Without Walls event was held and well received on Monday 24th June with a multi-agency attendance.

3 FOLLOW-UP ON POVERTY EVENT – VISION AND ACTION PLAN

Partners were delivered a presentation by Paul Edmondson-Jones which detailed the themes and the main drivers of the current anti-poverty agenda/strategy. The Board were informed that the Poverty Action Steering Group (PASG) had been established following the WOW Poverty event, and has since met 3 times to articulate a vision, define a work programme and agree on priorities for the next 2 years. Both quantitative and qualitative targets were explained, as were indicators that would demonstrate levels of success and improvement in each area of the vision. Long and short term objectives and activities were detailed. The vision and activities represented Phase 1 of the Strategy.

It was explained that PASG now required a steer from the Board in terms of the accuracy of the vision in Phase 1 and a commitment that they were happy for the current partnership to continue.

Chris Cullwick commented that the update of the PASG work was welcomed during the annual meeting of churches in York earlier this week.

Chris Goulden explain that JRF were in the midst of developing their own UK-wide anti-poverty strategy which helped to highlight the difficulty of any anti-poverty strategy – both long and short term measures need to be balanced in order to achieve a ‘poverty-free city’. He also noted that he was very supportive of the development of this strategy.

Comments from Partners regarding the action plan included:

- The previous poverty strategy was referred to in terms of how it had been evaluated and what it had achieved. It was explained that the previous strategy had influenced the child poverty strategy and that our understanding of the poverty issue had improved because of less specific targets and objective areas.
- The Westfield project was borne out of the previous strategy which was evaluated with impressive results.
- An audit is ongoing to ensure that any duplications or gaps in the citywide activities are picked up.
- The Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee have agreed to look at Free School Meals.
- Concerns about the employment target (1000 new private sector jobs) were raised, with concerns made about future private sector job losses.
- The risk of stigmatising people through the use of the word ‘poverty’ was discussed – many residents are uncomfortable with the term being used in reference to them due to the negative connotations.
- That poverty in the city is everyone’s business – it affects the whole community and is not a ‘them and us’ situation and this should be reflected in activities.
- There exist many Boards who are interested in anti-poverty activities with whom it is imperative for PASG and WOW to keep in contact and integrate with regarding current work.
- PASG was urged to stay mindful of forthcoming changes such as Universal Credit (UC) – pilot areas of UC are already showing huge tax arrears, residents not paying the

Bedroom Tax, alongside homelessness costs rising. Future-proofing is key to the agenda.

- The rationale for the strategy must not just be a moral one – need to accentuate the wider economic, business and social case for anti-poverty activities.

Suggestions for action to the vision included:

- The vision was liked and agreed with but it was felt that there were too many bullet points which should be condensed but remain reflective of the whole vision.
- The outcomes and activities need to match up – children in particular do not feature as much as they should.
- “Pioneering city” vision point is unnecessary – we always have been, and there were no outcomes provided for this point.
- Clarify what costs may occur in Phases 2, 3 and forward. It was mentioned that costings for Phase 1 are going to Cabinet in July. It was confirmed that any decisions on these costings would be fed back to the Board.
- It was recognised that there is room for other partners who are intrinsic to the anti-poverty agenda to contribute, such as the police.
- York Consortium could be a method for the “giving city” vision as it is a transparent mechanism for people to see where their money is going.
- To ensure that all restaurants and take-away outlets in the city are paying the National Minimum Wage.

Partners agreed that the vision is broadly along the right lines.

4 LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Darren Richardson delivered a presentation on Local Plan Preferred Options, which included visuals on the geography of proposed sites for housing, employment and settler communities. It was also explained how the Local Plan fits in with council priorities of growth in the economy and employment, appropriate housing, a sustainable York, and transport fit for the future.

Issues that the Local Plan takes into consideration include conservation areas, open space needs, green corridors and strays and deliverability of projects. Resilience was also noted as a key determinant of the Local Plan, including issues such as flooding. Darren Richardson commented

that they now sought consultation and reflection on the Local Plan from the Board.

Comments from Partners regarding the Local Plan were that:

- Crime is a factor in an increasing population, including an increase in the amount of police resources.
- The demographics in the city are likely to change greatly and the Local Plan should take this into consideration. Darren assured that this issue would be made clear within an evolving evidence base, within which potential sites would be filtered through such factors.
- That there would be an impact on existing villages, not just the city centre. That it is not just the increase in population, but what is situated and where. It is important not to disrupt existing communities.
- Lifetime housing was needed in the city; the Local Plan should not just fill current gaps.
- There has been an increase in 0-4 year olds in the city. The Local Plan should be mindful of joining both housing and education issues up.
- Issues such as the Gypsy communities are brought to the forefront of the discussion while other important issues do not get discussed. It is important not to let discussion and consultation get hijacked.
- The WoW Board and CYC are concerned with the city as a whole whereas individuals will be concerned with their properties and local areas.

Suggestions for further action included:

- That all existing Boards should be consulted and be able to prepare their own responses– Health and Wellbeing Board, Economic Partnership, Safer York.
- Advance circulation of information is advantageous and should be given to all relevant partnerships in future.
- Information should also be fed into each partnerships' Support Officer.
- That the Local Plan team makes every effort to handle the outcomes of the consultation – ensure that all residents know that they have been listened to despite not all opinions being acted upon.

5 PARTNERSHIP AND CITY PLAN UPDATE

Rita Sanderson noted that it was her last formal meeting as Chair of the Inclusive York Board and thanked the Board for the support in her role.

Chairs were asked to provide an update on the work and priorities of their respective partnerships.

- Mike Slater noted that the York Environment Partnership were now to meet twice a year as many people sit on other Boards and projects.
- Safer York will provide an update after the next meeting.
- Kevin Hall explained that the City Skills strategy is nearing completion and publication, and commented that it was built on consultation with employers. £200,000 has been allocated from the EIF for initiatives to help unemployed people back into work, 2 Jobs Fairs are planned for next year, and money has been allocated from the Leeds City Region for apprenticeships in the city.
- Rita stated that there was to be a review of the Inclusive York Board and will dissolve on the 3rd September.
- Diane will be taking the position of Chair of the Fairness and Equalities Board, and commented that there would be 3 areas of priority; narrowing the equalities gap in employment and education; celebrating diversity through cultural activities; and enabling a positive and diverse workforce.
- Tracey Simpson-Laing stated that the Health and Wellbeing Board were coming together to create a new Place of Safety; will be updating the JSNA at the next meeting; and will be creating charters for carers and disabled children.
- Kersten England explained that Network Rail, Karen Boswell from East Coast Mainline, Nestle, Shepherd Construction and Aviva have been added to the Economic Partnership. Their key focuses would be; the development of an investment plan for the city, increasing exports; improving inward investment; supporting businesses in the city.

6 CYC PEER CHALLENGE FEEDBACK

Kersten extended her thanks to all those who participated in the Peer Challenge. She noted that the city has an asset-base of citizens and partnerships who step up to their civic roles. 150 people were spoken to, and the team logged 200 hours worth of interview time. Recognition

of areas where CYC have made progress was noted in their initial feedback, as were the challenges that CYC face in the future.

The Peer team triangulated their evidence, and their presentation is to follow which will be circulated to all, including CYC's response.

The Spending Review details and Peer Challenge results will be combined to produce an approach for the next few years.

7 POLICY UPDATE

Partners were given a City Plan Action Tracker document for reference.

Phil Witcherley provided an update of the key measures in the Spending Review that had implications for the City.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 17:45pm.

Date of Next Meetings – All to take place 4-6pm at West Offices

- 25th September
- 18 December
- 26 March 2014