



## WITHOUT WALLS PARTNERSHIP Minutes

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**DATE** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**VENUE** George Hudson Board Room, West Offices

**PRESENT Board Members:**

Cllr. James Alexander – CYC – Chair  
John Bennett – DWP  
Alison Birkinshaw – Chair, Learning City York  
Phillip Cain – Safer York  
Sir Ron Cooke – Vice Chair  
Cllr. Ian Gillies – City of York Council  
Chief Constable Dave Jones - North Yorks. Police  
Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing, Chair, Health & Wellbeing Board  
Catherine Surtees – York CVS  
George Vickers – York CAB

**In attendance:**

Paul Edmondson-Jones – Deputy Chief Executive, CYC  
Ruth Kennedy – Consultant, CYC  
Phil Witcherley – Head of Policy, CYC  
Charles Storr – Economy and Enterprise Manager, CYC

**Secretariat:**

Rhiân Davies – Policy Officer, CYC

**APOLOGIES:**

Brian Cantor, Vice Chancellor - University of York  
Len Cruddas – Chief Executive, LYNYCC  
Kersten England, Chief Executive, CYC  
Nigel Hutchinson- Chief Fire Officer, North Yorks Fire Service  
Garry Jones – Chief Executive CVS  
Colin Mellors, University of York & Higher York  
Dianne Willcocks – Chair, Fairness and Equalities Board

## **1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Len Cruddas, Nigel Hutchinson, Garry Jones, Colin Mellors, Dianne Willcocks. The Board once again thanked previous CVS Chief Executive Angela Portz for her work.

Catherine Surtees represented CVS in Garry Jones' absence, and George Vickers represented the Fairness and Equalities Board in Dianne Willcocks' absence.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2013 were agreed.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

#### 1. Reinvigorate York Update

Several major projects have been undertaken during the first phase of Reinvigorate York to improve the public realm in York. These have been supervised by the Reinvigorate group, although they have not been funded from the £200k approved expenditure from May 2012. These include;

- Removal of 'Splash Palace'
- Re-design and paving of Minster Piazza
- Traffic rationalisation at Fishergate Bar
- Re-paving of Fishergate Postern
- Library Square, a precursor to Reinvigorate York, but a major development
- Improvements from the station to Lendal, including around the war memorial
- The next phase of Reinvigorate York (for which £3.3m is allocated) will undertake several major projects, beginning with Kings Square , followed by Exhibition Square

#### 2. Poverty Programme Update

Since the last meeting in July, the anti-poverty programme has been agreed by cabinet. This set out the ambition for creating a poverty free York. The programme outlined a number of short term

actions to make York a more affordable city and improving the quality of life in York by increasing the take-up of free school meals, campaigning for a living wage in the city and reducing the cost of living.

Housing week is taking place between the 14th-18th October, including the launch of an anti-loan shark charter for York, training for staff and partners in how to spot the signs that someone is being targeted by an illegal loan shark, and promotion of the Credit Union and Smarterbuys to residents and local landlords.

A fuel advisor has also been recruited for one year to help address fuel poverty in the city.

Ruth Kennedy has been allocated to the council for one day a week until March 2014, after a successful bid to the Systems Leadership Programme. The programme is a collaboration between Public Health England, National Skills Academy for Social Care, NHS Leadership Academy, Virtual Staff College, Local Government Association and the Leadership Centre, enabling areas to create system wide change through leadership collaboration and development (<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=763&MI D=7495> ). Ruth will be working as an 'enabler' to help develop systems leadership capabilities, and challenging the anti-poverty programme to be radical and innovative.

In the longer term, the poverty programme will be looking at improving childcare in the city and increasing giving in the city.

### **3 “GIVING CITY” – PLANS FOR YORK TO BECOME A “CHARITABLE CITY” WITHIN PARTNERSHIP**

Partners were delivered a presentation by Paul Edmondson-Jones which outlined the main objectives of creating a charitable giving scheme in York, as well as several options for its delivery which included;

- Encouraging giving to existing York charities for distribution to individuals in poverty

- The establishment of a York Poverty Action Fund to fund new community based anti-poverty work
- Work in partnership with Two Ridings Community Foundation Trust
- A York Giving/Fairer York accreditation scheme for local businesses – optional surcharge on services e.g. restaurant bills.

The objectives of becoming a charitable city were described as being able to provide the opportunity for York businesses and individuals to become more community-focused with their generosity, and to direct additional funds quickly to poverty-based projects within the city.

Two questions were then put to the board;

- Do you agree with the objectives for encouraging increased giving in York?
- How can we work together to make this happen?

Comments from Partners regarding the presentation included:

- With regard to becoming a poverty-free city, it was raised whether the “giving-city” model was the right choice in place of more preventative mechanisms
- There was an acknowledgement that persuading the public to donate based on a pre-conceived agenda and focused priorities would be difficult
- For the public to donate to any fund, there would be need to be clarity and focus about where contributions are to be channelled, in place of a generic fund
- The public are more likely to respond to emotional campaigns; Charities such as Shelter and Acts 435 tell someone’s individual story
- There are different types of givers; individual monthly donations, one off donations, surcharges on food bills
- There is a risk that generic funds could be seen as competition to other established charities in the area, especially as many charities currently face financial difficulty and large overheads
- Cllr Alexander has been in conversation with Nesta regarding an American community model, ‘Cities of Service’ (<http://www.citiesofservice.org/about/>), which recognises the energy and skills that exist in communities and uses them to address problems that are collectively faced

- Child poverty has increased in York and so Kids' Clubs could be a focus for this type of scheme
- The strands of the poverty programme are interrelated, but there was concern about the connection between being a "giving-city" and tackling the stigma behind poverty. It was acknowledged that a case needs to be built to strengthen the rationale behind what "need" it would be addressing
- University of York student fundraising societies such as RAG (Raising and Giving) could be asked to use 'poverty' as their next fundraising priority – they have been known to raise thousands during projects
- Conversation with partners is vital and necessary at this point; this item can then be brought back to the Board at a later date with a progress update.

#### **4 ACOMB AND TANG HALL REGENERATION UPDATE**

Partners were delivered an update by Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing regarding Acomb regeneration and by Cllr James Alexander regarding Tang Hall regeneration.

Comments from Partners regarding the update included:

- Footfall in Acomb is falling and there is a desire from residents for the area to emulate the style of the Bishopthorpe Road area
- Electricity to support the establishment of markets in Acomb has a large infrastructural cost and so temporary measures are being investigated to explore the idea of supporting markets and Christmas markets
- There are 54 bollards on Acomb Front Street which could be removed to make space for market traders
- The Acomb team have given traders a programme/menu of ideas/events to consider which to take forward. The £30,000 bid made to the EIF fund was approved in October Cabinet. £24,000 of this will go towards hard infrastructure, with the remaining £6,000 of it to go towards events/footfall stimulating activity
- Catherine Surtees objected to point 4.3; "Front Street Acomb is suffering...challenges...some businesses are currently occupied by charitable organisations...rather than retail or other businesses". Catherine stated that charitable organisations are providing a service and are well maintained

- Bishopthorpe Road retailers thrive because they have common aims for the area

## **5 PARTNERSHIP AND CITY PLAN UPDATE**

Partners were delivered a verbal update on 5 out of the 7 Without Walls sub-boards.

- George Vickers, in place of Dianne Willcocks, provided an update on the Fairness and Equalities Board. The Board has met for the first time to discuss a future programme. A detailed mapping of the fairness agenda was undertaken alongside the links to other committees. The group will focus on one or two key issues and these will be agreed at the next meeting.
- Patrick Kelly provided an update for York@Large. There has been work towards submitting a bid of £300,000 to the Arts Council's "cultural destinations" programme, designed to encourage cultural tourism over the next 3 years in collaboration with existing consortia/events. They are also looking at the programme of events for the Tour de France.
- Tracey Simpson-Laing provided an update for the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board was informed that the CCG had agreed funding for a Place of Safety in York. The Board also adopted the Carers Charter and the Disabled Children's Charter at their last meeting. A light refresh of the JSNA is underway.
- Philip Cain provided an update for the Safer York Partnership. A Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) review has gone out for public consultation, which includes redefining the boundary for the CIZ. A city-centre code of conduct is being discussed with British Transport Police, rail networks, and local businesses. The Lifestyle competition was run over the summer months for 10-16 year olds, which had the aim of involving police, businesses, councils, statutory and voluntary organisations, families and individuals in improving community spirit through community projects. They have also been looking at the creation of an Anti-Social Behaviour Multi-Agency hub. The police have been working with York

St John and the University of York to promote safety during Freshers' weeks, and are also investing in technology to allow students to register their laptops and phones in case of theft.

- James Alexander provided an update for the Economic Partnership. There has been progress made on the Brownfields sites. It was confirmed that the Council had worked with partners and Government to clarify that York's major infrastructure priorities were with and would be funded through Leeds City Region LEP. The Council and partners are looking at ways to explore the potential for developing a city-wide marketing and business development agency to attract key audiences and investors.

## 6 CYC PEER REVIEW UPDATE

Partners were delivered a verbal update on CYC's response to the recent Peer Review and were informed that a paper is going to Cabinet next week on the responses to the feedback.

### Issues and Responses

**Issue:** Increased demand for services with reduced budget

**Response:** A transformation programme to support the council in making budget savings, reshaping council services, increasing job satisfaction, increasing the quality of services, and co-designing and working with residents and partners more.

**Issue:** Resident engagement and capacity building

**Response:** Place communities at the heart of everything we do, support local communities to find answers to local problems and support activities, and provide opportunities for all residents to take part in local decision making to shape local services. These could be achieved through; the Leader, supported by CMT and Cabinet holding meetings in every ward in the city to discuss what matters to them, welcoming residents into West Offices, and exploring the customer services function.

## 7 WOW GOVERNANCE AUDIT UPDATE

Partners were delivered a verbal update on the audit of Without Walls sub-board governance carried out by Veritau. A full report will be delivered in coming months.

- It was found that Learning City and Safer York Partnership have not been publishing agendas in advance of meetings, or publishing minutes within 10 days of meetings

## **8 POLICY UPDATE**

Partners were given an updated City Plan Action Tracker document for reference.

## **9 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.**

- 18th December – Auden Room, Ground Floor
- 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – George Hudson Board Room, First Floor
- 25<sup>th</sup> June