



WITHOUT WALLS PARTNERSHIP Minutes

DATE 19 March 2015

VENUE Severus Room, West Offices, Station Rise

PRESENT

Board Members:

Cllr Dafydd Williams (Chair) – Leader, City of York Council
Alison Birkinshaw - Principal, York College
Fred Ring - York Racial Equality Network
Cllr. Chris Steward – Conservative Group Leader, City of York Council
Chris Bailey – York@Large Board
Sir Ron Cooke – Vice Chair of WoW Board
Luke Barnett – Chief Executive, York Council for Voluntary Service
Cllr Lindsay Cunningham-Cross – Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board
Stirling Kimkeran – Chair of York Economic Partnership
Deputy Chief Constable Tim Madgwick – North Yorkshire Police
Jane Grenville – Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of York
Tony Lindsay – Chief Executive, York CAB

In attendance:

Phil Witcherley – Group Manager: Economy & Place Strategy, City of York Council
Paul McCabe – Strategic manager: Sustainability and transformation, City of York Council
Stewart Halliday – Assistant Director Transformation and Change, City of York Council

Secretariat:

Natasha Woodfine - Apprentice Information Assistant, City of York Council
Ruth Lowman – Business Intelligence Officer, City of York Council

APOLOGIES:

Jill Gibson – Department for Work and Pensions
Cllr. Keith Aspden – Lib Dem Group Leader, City of York Council

Kersten England – Chief Executive, City of York Council
Nigel Hutchinson - Chief Fire Officer, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Dianne Willcocks - Incoming Chair Fairness & Equalities Board
Supt. Phil Cain – North Yorkshire Police
Chief Constable Dave Jones – North Yorkshire Police

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from those not in attendance as above.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 Sept 2014 were agreed. Phil Witcherley confirmed that all the actions from the previous meeting have been completed and that the City Action Plan update will be covered during the relevant agenda item at this meeting.

3 POLICY UPDATE ON THE CHANCELLOR'S BUDGET

Phil Witcherley presented an update on the budget that had been announced the day before. He outlined the impact on public spending and the potential impacts for York.

Sir Ron Cooke highlighted that there has been an increased transfer of responsibilities to Local Authorities, coupled with decreased income. DCC Madgwick reflected on some of the positive aspects of the budget for example increased spending on mental health.

4 UPDATE ON CITY ACTION PLAN

Phil Witcherley provided a review of progress against the City Action Plan and the key achievements that WoW partners have delivered together since 2011.

Board members discussed whether or not these achievements would have happened without the presence of the WoW Board. It was agreed that there is still value in having WoW Board meetings and in having an action plan but that the role and nature of the board should be reviewed after the election. The following suggestions were made for improvements to WoW:

- Leadership and agenda should rest with WoW board chairs and not necessarily the council.

- WoW Board meetings to be made more public and accountable (for example through live web casting).
- Making more use of consultation results to ensure the WoW Board is prioritising the things that matter to the 'person on the street' e.g. using Rewiring Consultation and the Fairness & Equalities Board dialogue.
- Future meetings should focus on areas where there are shared future priorities. The two suggested for future meetings were late night economy and mental health.

5 FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Chairs of WoW sub-groups outlined their current priorities.

Cllr Cunningham-Cross - Health & Wellbeing and Fairness & Equalities (in Dianne Willcocks absence):

The Fairness & Equalities Board has three key workstreams: Good growth, Welcoming City and Health & Equalities. The equalities scheme will be ready to launch after the election. The Health and Wellbeing Board is focussing on health and social care system challenges such as recruitment and retention.

Chris Bailey - York@Large:

The current priorities for York@Large were outlined which include: Wayfinding; the Guildhall quarter; a creative employment programme; the cultural commissioning locality project and Vespertine (the evening economy).

In relation to the evening economy DCC Madgwick highlighted the tensions that exist around licensing and issues with hen and stag parties.

Alison Birkinshaw - Learning City York:

Learning City York's key areas of work include: careers education and guidance; support for vulnerable groups; mental health; the health and social care sector (issue re low wages); digital inclusion and apprenticeships. Cllr Cunningham-Cross highlighted the importance of linking up with the YorOk Board.

Stirling Kimkeran - York Economic Partnership:

The recent Economic Strategy Prioritisation event identified the top two economic strategy priorities as: 'Making a tangible industrial shift towards higher value sectors' and 'Unlocking the commercial and

residential sites required for growth, with a focus on business accommodation'. The top two things that were identified that York should aspire to be famous for are biotech/agri-tech and using our unique heritage.

Action: CYC to provide access to the video from the event for Board members. [Click here to view the video.](#)

6 UPDATE ON THE REWIRING PROGRAMME

Stewart Halliday updated the Board on the progress of the council's Rewiring programme, which aims to change the way the council works and increase engagement with residents. Comments from the Board included:

- a request to increase opportunities for local procurement where possible.
- a positive response to the co-design concept
- a suggestion that the council holds on to the expertise of staff to enable it to make good decisions.

7 INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE CITY YORK - ONE PLANET LIVING

Paul McCabe gave an overview of work to strengthen the city's Sustainable City York programme through adoption of a new city-wide sustainability framework. In March 2015, York Environment Forum and City of York Council co-hosted a Sustainable City York summit to explore how city stakeholders could use the framework to better deliver York's ambition to be '*a leading sustainable city*' (WoW Strategy for York 2011-25).

Paul circulated a report ([available here](#)) showing York's progress towards key sustainability principles including carbon reduction, waste and recycling, resource efficiency, equity and local economy, health and happiness. York is well on the way to being a 'leading' city.

A strengthened framework would help the city:

- Consolidate excellent work and better showcase achievements
- Increase stakeholder understanding, engagement and participation
- Maximise existing investments & attract new investment
- Achieve better strategic alignment across related programmes including Smart City, Super Connected City, I-travel York and the emerging economic strategy

- Drive the agenda forward & raise aspirations. York – European Green Capital 2020!

A Sustainable City York prospectus is being prepared designed to secure city-wide endorsement of the new framework, including City of York Council.

Comments from the Board included the following:

- York's built environment is important and reference should be made to the Local Plan, World Heritage site work, Civic Trust and Reinvigorate York.
- Some of the issues are duplicated from elsewhere e.g. JSNA, Tour de France – should the work primarily focus on 'green' issues?
- Does Bristol's status as European Green Capital 2015 belie a gap between rhetoric and reality? The meeting discussed how high profile ambition, effective marketing and alignment can drive delivery and secure new investment.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fred Ring informed the Board that YREN have been successful in gaining Comic Relief funding for a Community Voice worker.

Action: Fred to be on the agenda at the next WoW meeting to provide an update on YREN.